FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 224 *19 November 1979*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

'Arafat Offers Military Assistance to Iran A 1
Rabat Reports 'Arafat Reply to Hassan Cable A 1
Details of Arab Foreign Ministers Conference Reported A 1
Qaddumi's 15 Nov Speech A 1
16 Nov Session A 2
Butrus, Qaddumi, Khaddam Speeches A 3
Butrus Press Conference A 4
Final Session Postponed A 5
Working Paper on Lebanon A 5
PLO Reservations on Working Paper [VOP] A 7
Final Session 17 Nov A 7
AFP on Differences A 8
VOP Comment A 8
Fatah's Abu Salih Meets With Nasirite Leader [VOP] A 9

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

Government Said Reviewing Extension of U.S. Facilities [Amman AL-AKHBAR 17 Nov] C 1
Foreign Minister Returns From Tunis, Comments C 1

KUWAIT

Government 'Regrets' U.S. Decision on Iranian Assets C 1
Foreign Minister Protests Iran Reports About U.S. Troops C 2
Anti-American Demonstration Held at Iranian Embassy C 2

OMAN

Official Denies Landing of U.S. Paratroops in Oman C 2
Sultan Calls for Security, Stability in Gulf, Indian Ocean C 3
Criticizes Aden, Moscow C 4

QATAR

Oil Minister Foresees Oil Price Increase C 4
Denies Increased Production C 5

SAUDI ARABIA

Kingdom Will Not Make Up U.S. Oil Shortfall C 5
Petroleum Minister Grants Interview to Amman Television C 6
Comments on Iran [Amman AD-DUSTUR 18 Nov] C 7
Yasir 'Arafat Arrives From Baghdad 18 Nov C 7
Meets With King [VOP] C 8
Departs 19 Nov C 8

UAE

AL-WAHDAH Criticizes Freezing of Iranian Assets C 8

EGYPT

U.S. Envoy Strauss Arrives for Peace Celebration D 1
As-Sadat, Strauss Press Conference D 1
Further Remarks D 1
As-Sadat Speech at St Catherine's Ceremony D 2
Radio Continues Coverage D 3
Negotiating Team Official Criticizes Israeli Policy D 3
Government Names New Ambassador to Soviet Union D 4
Ghali Criticizes Arab Foreign Ministers Conference D 4
Comments on Nabulus Mayor D 4

IRAQ

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives for Talks 18 Nov E 1
Meets President E 1
Makes Statement, Departs E 1
Foreign Minister Returns From Tunis 17 Nov E 2

JORDAN

Saudi Shaykh Yamani Arrives 17 Nov F 1
Meets King Husayn F 1
Arab Mineral Organization Begins Meetings 17 Nov F 1
Meetings Conclude F 1

LEBANON

Al-Huss, Political Leaders Comment on Arab Summit G 1
Al-Jumayhil Criticism [VOL] G 1
Sham'un Statement [VOL] G 1
VOL: Al-Huss, 'Arafat Fail To Resolve Differences G 2
Ash-Shiyah Region Syrian Antiaircraft Commander Shot [VOL] G 2
Haddad Forces Issue Series of Ultimatums G 2

SYRIA

Khaddam Condemns U.S. Policy Toward Iran H 1
TISHRIN Urges OPEC To Support Iran Against U.S. H 1

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Algerian-Soviet Economic, Commercial Agreement Signed I 1
Foreign Minister Yahia Comments on Tunis Talks I 1
Mediterranean Socialist Parties End Algiers Meeting I 2

LIBYA

At-Turayki Condemns Freezing of Iran's Assets I 3
JANA Editor Cited on Egyptian Air Force Exercises I 3

MOROCCO

Foreign Secretary Baddou Returns From Moscow I 4
MAP Cites Brzezinski on U.S. Support for Morocco I 4

TUNISIA

Press Comments on U.S. Handling of Iranian Crisis I 4

WESTERN SAHARA

Lamine Cited on Spain's Position on Sahara Conflict I 5
[Madrid EL PAIS 11 Nov]

ISRAEL

Cabinet Decides to Evacuate Elon More in Two Stages N 1
Further Details N 1
Tamir on Decision N 2
Gush Emunim on Decision N 2
Finance Minister Horowitz Introduces New Economic Measures N 3
Begin Marks Second Anniversary of As-Sadat Visit N 3
UN Urges That Ash-Shak'ah Not Be Expelled N 3
Relative Quiet in West Bank; Some Protests Continue N 4
Coast Guard Vessel Clashes With Terrorists, Two Killed N 4
Further Details N 4

IRAN

16 November Developments Concerning U.S. Embassy R 1
Rafsanjani Comments on Situation R 1
Anti-U.S. Demonstration Held R 4
Bani Sadr PANA Interview R 4
Bani Sadr: 'We Will Not Kill the Hostages' [AL-HAWADITH 16 Nov] R 5
Arab Ministers: Freezing Assets is 'Serious Precedent' R 9
[ASH-SARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Nov]
17 November Developments Concerning U.S. Embassy R 10
Bani Sadr on Frozen Assets R 10
Blacks, Women Ordered Released R 11
Bani Sadr on Arab's Position R 11
Contact With U.S. Denied R 13
Official Cited on Freeze R 14
Washington POST Cited R 14
Message to Mexico R 14
Commentary on Freeze, Shah R 14
Deportation of Iranians Reported R 15
British Freeze of Assets R 15
Student Statement No 37 R 15
PLO Envoy Meets Bani Sadr [VOP] R 16
Khomeyni's Son To Accompany Hostages R 16
Bani Sadr on U.S. Relations R 17
Mo'infar on Oil Exports R 18
Council Denounces 'Counterrevolutionary' Actions R 19
Rafsanjani Comment on Situation R 20
18 November Developments Concerning U.S. Embassy R 21
Student Statement on Release R 21
Iranian Warship Movements R 21
More on Bani Sadr Interview R 21
Bani Sadr Appeal to Europeans R 23

Ayatollah Beheshti's Press Conference R 23
Further Details R 25
Student Press Conference R 25
Ambassador Denies Student Plan R 26
Khomeyni Interview on Hostages R 26
Student Statement No 38 R 28
Student Statement No 39 R 29
Press Conference by Hostages R 30
19 November Developments Concerning U.S. Embassy R 31
Release of 3 Hostages R 31
10 More Possibly Released R 31
Khomeyni Statement on PLO R 31
Hostages Taken to Airport R 32
Bani Sadr on U.S. Relations R 32
Tabataba'i Named Supervisor of Prime Minister's Office R 34
New Labor Minister Appointee Announced R 34
NVOI Warns People Against Improper Actions R 34
NVOI Derides Colonialist Propaganda, Conspiracy R 36
Khomeyni Holds Talks With Ambassador to USSR R 37
Relations With Libya Resume at Charge d'Affaires Level R 37
AFP: Diplomatic Relations With Iraq Resumed R 37
Denial of Iraqi Attack R 38
Syrian Ambassador Presents Credentials to Bani Sadr R 38
Delegation To Attend Arab Summit in Tunis R 38
Transactions With Companies Dealing With Israel Banned R 38

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

Amin Gives Interview to Foreign Correspondents S 1

BANGLADESH

Indian Border Fire Exchanged Again 17 Nov S 3
Bilateral Discussions Continue S 3

INDIA

Bangladesh Closes Border Checkpoint Near Belonia S 4
Gunfire Exchanged 19 Nov S 4

SRI LANKA

Indonesian President Arrives 17 Nov for State Visit S 4
State Banquet Speeches S 5
Suharto Departure S 5

'ARAFAT OFFERS MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO IRAN

NC171340 Cairo DPA in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Nov 79 NC

[Text] Beirut, 17 November--The Beirut newspaper AS-SAFIR reports here today that PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat has offered military assistance to Iran in the event the United States intervenes to release the U.S. hostages being held by Iranian students in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. The paper, which is known for its firm contact with the PLO, adds that 'Arafat's offer was contained in a message he sent to the Iranian leader, Ayatollah Khomeyni. In the message, 'Arafat acquainted Khomeni with the results of the discussions he recently had with the Kremlin leaders in Moscow. The paper adds that Iran was among the important topics touched upon during the discussions.

RABAT REPORTS 'ARAFAT REPLY TO HASSAN CABLE

LD162222 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Nov 79 LD

[Text] The king has received a reply from Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. Here is the text:

Your Majesty, brother King Hassan: I received your cable about events at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and I confirm to your majesty the eagerness of the PLO to carry out what it regards as its duty toward the Arab and Islamic nation and that which is in the interests of the Palestine issue and the independence of will of the fraternal people of Iran. In doing so our premise is the humanitarian factors, along with our firm concern for the interest of the heroic Iranian people, and the ties of fraternity and jihad that link us with this people and its revolution and leadership, and whatever is in the interests of our Arab and Islamic nation..

While thanking you for your kind cable which expressed the extent of your concern for advancing the march of struggle of the Palestinian revolution and the just cause of our people, I take the occasion to wish you and the fraternal Moroccan people all progress and prosperity.

DETAILS OF ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE REPORTED

Qaddumi's 15 Nov Speech

JN161444 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 16 Nov 79 JN

[Text] Tunis, 16 November--The Arab foreign ministers conference resumed its meetings at 1025 Tunis time today. This morning's session will discuss the second item on the agenda, the situation in southern Lebanon.

The INA mission reports that the Arab foreign ministers have decided to form a committee, similar to the Bayt ad-Din committee, to draft formulas by which to deal with the situation in southern Lebanon. The committee, which comprises the parties concerned with the Lebanese issue, in addition to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and Tunisian Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri, is entrusted with the task of coordinating the Lebanese and Palestinian proposals submitted at the meeting.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus and PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi spoke at the session about the situation in southern Lebanon. They explained the views of Lebanon and the resistance on ways to deal with the issue of the south and with the damages inflicted on the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples by the repeated Zionist attacks.

In yesterday's meetings, Qaddumi stressed the Palestinian revolution's concern for Lebanon's independence and its unity of both land and people. In his speech, which was adopted as a Palestinian working paper, he said that the forthcoming Arab summit must be a step forward and not a cover for a step backward, particularly in regard to support for Arab steadfastness, the Palestinian people and their revolution, Lebanon and its south. The proposals noted that confrontation of the southern Lebanon issue can be viewed only as a result of the counterattack launched by the Camp David partners against the Arab stand, embodied in the Baghdad summit resolutions.

He added that the sound and correct solution for the issue of southern Lebanon must derive from support for Lebanon and the Palestinian revolution, as well as for the Lebanese people's steadfastness in the south, within the framework of an Arab determination to confront and defeat the Camp David plot and to firmly confront U.S. policy, which has clearly exposed itself as hostile to Palestinian and Arab rights.

Qaddumi added that the Baghdad summit was an important historic event in the Arab people's political life and was able to defeat the theory on which the enemies based their calculations. It also stressed to the world that the Egyptian ruler's decision, which constitutes a relinquishment, capitulation and liquidation of Arab rights, as well as a violation of Arab unanimity and will, is not an Arab decision.

INA reported in a later dispatch that the Palestinian delegation has called for the formation of a committee to coordinate between the Lebanese army and the Palestinian resistance in the south in order to forestall pretexts for the repeated Zionist attacks there. The delegation also called for the trial of all parties cooperating with the Zionist enemy in the south and condemnation of their acts, which are aimed at obstructing the process of the Lebanese Army's deployment in the south and hampering the UN interim forces' task.

The Palestinian delegation expressed the resistance's readiness to offer all facilities to UNIFIL to help them carry out their tasks in southern Lebanon. It stressed Lebanon's full sovereignty over all its territories and the Palestinian resistance's right to exercise its struggle from all Arab fronts. It also stressed its complete and constant readiness to coordinate and cooperate with the legitimate authority in all fields in this regard.

16 Nov Session

JN161106 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1031 GMT 16 Nov 79 JN

[Text] Tunis, 16 November--The Arab foreign ministers resumed their meetings in Tunis this morning in an atmosphere of optimism that the mutual understanding that has existed among the Arab delegations on the topics discussed will continue. The closed morning session will be devoted to the second item on the agenda, the Lebanese question.

Well-informed sources have told a GULF NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Tunis that it is not believed that the working paper submitted by Lebanon yesterday evening will be accepted by the other Arab delegations. These sources say that the Lebanese working paper concentrates on removing Palestinian fedayeen action from Lebanon or disarming it. The sources said that this is not acceptable to all the Arab states. However, it is believed that a satisfactory solution to the Lebanese question which insures that legality and Lebanese sovereignty will prevail throughout Lebanon will be achieved. These sources add that all the Arab states are seeking to save Lebanon from its ordeal.

A GULF NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Tunis has learned that the PLO prepared a Palestinian working paper last night which it will submit to the Arab foreign ministers meeting this morning. It is expected that a drafting committee will be formed to bring the Lebanese and Palestinian working papers closer to each other.

Conference sources here said that all the meetings are progressing well and are free of differences. These sources said that "all side meetings among Arab delegations have been fruitful and constructive and sought to bring about solutions acceptable to all sides." The sources added that the "tension" that existed in past conferences was not present at this conference.

Butrus, Qaddumi, Khaddam Speeches

LD161414 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Nov 79 LD

[Text] The conference of foreign ministers of Arab countries resumed its work in Tunis this morning under the chairmanship of Tunisian Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri. Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi was in attendance. The ministers debated the second item on the agenda, namely, the situation in southern Lebanon.

The first to speak was Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus, who reviewed the situation in southern Lebanon. He said the situation there is an Arab responsibility, and stressed the need to maintain the unity of Lebanon and its independence [words indistinct]. This is despite the many decisions adopted by the Security Council on this issue, which did not help in solving the problems because of Israel's attitude toward these decisions and toward the international conscience, so Lebanon is a victim of direct repeated Israeli violations in the south. This has resulted in the destitution of 100,000 Lebanese, the destruction of many villages and the evacuation of their inhabitants. For this reason the situation is threatening to explode if the international forces, in particular, are not able to fulfill their obligations.

The Lebanese foreign minister said that the UN forces have been exposed to Israeli attacks resulting in the death of 32 members of the UN forces as a result of Israeli aggression. Fu'ad Butrus appealed to all Arab countries to unite their efforts to adopt useful and common stands to rescue the situation. He pointed out that material aid alone is not sufficient to solve the problem and what (?is needed) is to help Lebanon regain its authority over the south.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, then spoke. He said: We are with Lebanon in its tribulations and share its troubles. He stressed that the PLO clings to the principle of respecting Lebanese sovereignty and the decisions of the Security Council. Israel is the one overstepping all these decisions, challenging the international conscience and sowing death and devastation equally among Palestinians and Lebanese.

Faruq Qaddumi said: Fate has brought us together in southern Lebanon with our Lebanese brothers, and we are (?pleased) with this, but we do not want to create any problems to others. He said that the reports of UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to the Security Council and the UN General Assembly prove that Israel is always the cause of (?intensifying) tension in southern Lebanon. The UN force in this respect has recorded more than 291 incidents in which Israel, (?together) with the forces of the mutineer, Capt Sa'd Hadda, was to blame. Faruq Qaddumi pointed out that the reports [words indistinct] of the United Nations praised the cooperation of the forces of the Palestinian revolution with the UN forces in southern Lebanon. The head of the PLO Political Department stressed that the Palestinian forces are determined [words indistinct] the UN forces in Lebanon.

Faruq Qaddumi then submitted a Palestinian working paper on Lebanon to the conference, which includes in particular affirmation of the full sovereignty of Lebanon over all its territories and maintenance of its national independence and unity, affirmation of the right of the Palestinian resistance to carry out its struggle from all Arab fronts, the necessity of implementing the decisions of the Cairo summit conference and the Bayt ad-Din conference and the adoption of urgent measures for this, together with rebuilding Lebanon and eliminating the consequences of the Israeli aggression against the Lebanese villages and Palestinian camps, [passage indistinct] the bolstering of the steadfastness of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in southern Lebanon and for the Palestinian resistance to give all facilities to the UN emergency forces to carry out their duties in southern Lebanon and set up a coordinating committee between south Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance to avoid justifications for the repeated Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon.

Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam also spoke at this session. He proposed the formation of a committee to study the subject of the Lebanese problem in all aspects and to submit a report on this to the coming summit conference providing that the follow up committee is the same committee referred to by the Bayt ad-Din conference and adding to it Mohamed Fitouri, chairman of the conference of foreign ministers of Arab countries, and Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League.

The work of the conference is still in progress.

Butrus Press Conference

NC161920 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Nov 79 NC

[Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus' press conference in Tunis 16 November--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Butrus] We as Lebanese have submitted a working paper here. I explained in detail the paper, its background, and the motives that prompted us to submit it and to insist on our stand, which I hope our Arab brothers understand. They made proposals, but they said that they understood our attitude. However, there are some difficulties, known to everyone, which I hope that our sincere brothers will manage to overcome in order to reach reasonable solutions. So far, I cannot speculate about the results.

[Question] What is the picture of southern Lebanon you conveyed to the conferees? What is the situation there now?

[Answer] The situation in southern Lebanon is tragic. Despite the link between the situation in southern Lebanon and the Middle East crisis, southern Lebanon must be tackled on its own as a separate and independent issue. Failure to do so would be to lose southern Lebanon in the labyrinth of the Middle East crisis, which is not right. Proceeding from this, I drew a picture of the situation in southern Lebanon. I stressed that the UN resolutions on southern Lebanon--which were adopted at our request, reviewed by the Palestinian resistance, approved by the Arab states and aimed not only at insuring Lebanon's interests but also those of the other parties--must be implemented.

The implementation involves two points: The first is related to Israel and its occupation of part of Lebanon; the Arabs must do all that they can to remove this occupation and aggression. The second point is related to the Lebanese border and involves the pretexts, reasons and circumstances that can lead to [words indistinct] UN resolutions and to giving Israel pretexts to strike at Lebanon. Thus the Palestinian resistance--and it has stated this--must stop carrying out military operations from Lebanon. The authority and sovereignty of Lebanon must return to southern Lebanon through understanding and agreement with the United Nations. Thus all military presence in UNIFIL's area of operations, except for the Lebanese Army and UNIFIL itself, must be removed. There is also a need to follow up the implementation of this program. What is more important is that our Arab brothers must realize what I have repeatedly stressed: The issue of southern Lebanon must be tackled realistically, objectively and radically, and not by generalities and slogans. Things must be called by their true names, and measures must be taken to safeguard this dear part of our country. Failure to do so means that we would offend ourselves and all the issues we stand for.

Final Session Postponed

LD170002 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 Nov 79 LD

[Excerpt] The final session which the Arab foreign ministers were to have held tonight has been postponed until 0900 tomorrow. The Arab foreign ministers were expected to end their meetings tonight.

TAP reports that during their meeting tonight the Arab foreign ministers probably discussed a draft prepared by the special committee which has been entrusted with the task of developing a unified working paper on the first topic on the agenda, the Arab-Israeli conflict, based on the working papers and proposals submitted by Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Libya and the PLO and the memoranda submitted by the Arab League Secretariat General.

Working Paper on Lebanon

JN171121 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Nov 79 JN

[Text] Tunis, 17 November--A special committee formed by the Arab foreign ministers has agreed on a unified formula for the Lebanese and Palestinian working papers on the situation in southern Lebanon. It was reported here today that the agreement by the committee--which includes the foreign ministers of Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon and Tunis, the PLO representative and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi--on a unified formula for the situation in southern Lebanon removes a big obstacle that was threatening the Arab foreign ministers meeting.

The INA mission has learned that the unified paper stresses Lebanon's full sovereignty over all its territory and the preservation of its independence and territorial unity, and the right of the Palestinian resistance to carry out its struggle from all Arab fronts.

The unified working paper adopted by the special committee states: In view of the concern for Lebanon's safety and territorial integrity and the continued Palestinian steadfastness in the face of the Zionist enemy and in view of the need to assist Lebanon in overcoming its internal crisis in southern Lebanon, the following resolutions have been adopted:

1. The conference stresses Lebanon's full sovereignty over all its territory and the preservation of its independence and territorial integrity. The conference also stresses the need for the Lebanese state to exercise sovereignty in southern Lebanon as far as its internationally recognized borders, especially by the return of all government departments and civilian and military institutions to exercising their authorities and powers in southern Leba[illegible].

2. The conference condemns the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon in all its forms and holds this aggression responsible for the suffering of southern Lebanon's population. The conference stresses its rejection of Israeli hegemony which aims at interfering in Lebanon's affairs under any pretext.

3. The conference takes note of the PLO's pledge to refrain from carrying out military operations from the Lebanese border and to refrain from announcing in Lebanon the operations carried out by the resistance in the occupied territories.

The conference stresses the Palestinian resistance's right to carry out its struggle from all Arab fronts.

4. The conference stresses the need to implement the Bayt ad-Din resolutions, out of concern for the resolutions of the Riyad and Cairo conferences, and the need to adopt the necessary measures to achieve this. The conference calls on the legitimate Lebanese authorities and the PLO to coordinate and cooperate to settle all problems.

5. The conference resolves to support the Lebanese Government in all international forums to exert the maximum pressures on the Zionist enemy to cease its aggression against southern Lebanon and withdraw from it. The conference also stresses the need to fully implement Security Council resolutions on southern Lebanon and to enable the UNIFIL to carry out its tasks, including the removal of the armed presence of the parties collaborating with the Israeli enemy in southern Lebanon.

6. The conference calls on all the parties to facilitate the Lebanese Army's entry into southern Lebanon to carry out its national responsibilities.

7. The conference stresses the need for the committee formed by the Bayt ad-Din conference to resume its work and for a representative of the Arab League Secretariat to become a member of the committee.

PLO Reservations on Working Paper

JN180630 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 18 Nov 79 JN

[Text] The Palestinian delegation under the PLO Political Department head, brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], has expressed reservations on the working paper submitted to the Arab foreign ministers meetings yesterday evening, which deals with southern Lebanon.

Brother Abu al-Lutf said that the Palestinian reservations deal with the suspension of military operations against the Zionist enemy and are due to the fact that the PLO would not like this decision to come from the ministers or from the Arab kings and leaders.

Final Session 17 Nov

LD171348 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Text] The conference of foreign ministers of the Arab countries concluded its work just after noon today. At the final session of the conference, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi expressed extreme satisfaction with the fraternal and positive spirit of co-operation which marked the debates of the conference. He praised the fundamental results produced by the conference by affirming Arab unanimity regarding the questions of their destiny and also the other important issues. Chedli Klibi said that what must be noted is that the work ended with Arab agreement in all spheres. He underlined the importance given by the conference to the recommendations relating to intensifying the information efforts, especially toward the foreign information media. He praised the fraternal atmosphere which prevailed at the conference and expressed his appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Arab delegations at the conference to produce positive results.

Conference chairman Mohamed Fitouri delivered a speech in which he said: We have concluded our work and have drawn up the agenda for the coming Arab summit conference and have agreed on the recommendations to be submitted ot it. Thus we have fulfilled the task we were charged with thanks to the fraternal and serious spirit which prevailed in the conference. Our deep sense of responsibility has been the best incentive for all to reach these results.

He emphasized the fraternal spirit which prevailed in the debate on the situation in Lebanon, to insure at the same time the protection of Lebanese sovereignty and the backing for the Palestinian revolution. He said: We have succeeded in laying down an all-embracing plan for the various aspects of political, diplomatic and economic activities in the coming stage and for the marshalling of Arab efforts in all fields to insure the restoration of Arab rights and the Palestinian people's right to their freedom, sovereignty and the establishment of their own independent state.

Mohamed Fitouri praised the (?comprehensive) support he received from the members of the delegations and the positive (?nature) which distinguished the debates. He thanked the delegations for the (?kind) speeches [words indistinct] which they expressed toward Tunisia. He said we will be honored and proud to welcome the Arab kings and presidents at their coming meeting in Tunis, wishing this meeting every success.

Finally, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, delivered a speech. He expressed his appreciation to Mohamed Fitouri for the ability he displayed in running the conference. He thanked Tunis, the president, government and people for the kind reception and hospitality. He said: The results produced by the conference are the best evidence of the success of the Arab action and of the efforts to carry on the battle to the end.

AFP on Differences

NC172025 Paris AFP in English 2006 GMT 17 Nov 79 NC

[Text] Tunis, Nov. 17, (AFP)--A three-day Arab foreign ministers conference ended today with a decision to let Arab heads of state--who meet Tuesday--decide on whether to use the oil weapon again, informed sources said.

The ministers divided on the oil embargo issue between the hardline Iraqi stance calling for an oil ministers meeting to set a joint strategy and the Saudi Arabian position opposing an oil embargo except as a final recourse, the sources said.

The Saudis, who were supported by the Gulf states, recommended a pan-Arab meeting to fix an overall, joint economic stragety, they said.

The Arab foreign ministers were unable to resolve differences between Beirut and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Instead, the meeting decided to hand over the southern Lebanon issue as well to the heads of state.

After more than 17 hours of sometimes argumentative deliberations, the ministers finally came up with a seven-point plan to help restore peace in war-torn Lebanon. The plan will now be submitted to the heads of state.

More than anything else, the document rephrases and endorses past decisions--with the addition of a few minor nuances--aimed at ending the confrontation between the PLO and Beirut.

Beirut requested the summit to obtain a PLO disarmament or withdrawal from southern Lebanon, but the document spoke of freezing PLO operations against Israel while calling on Arab capitals to encourage such operations.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus reacted negatively to the final document, saying he had "reservations" on its conclusions as to the southern Lebanon problem. He said he hoped the heads of state would look more deeply into the issue and "manage to find a solution to this tricky problem."

Mr. Butrus' disappointment contrasted sharply with the satisfaction expressed by Tunisian Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri and Arab League Secretary-General Chedli Klibi, both of whom spoke of the "positive" results of the conference.

The Middle East, the top item on the agenda, presented no problems for the ministers. They recommended reinforcing the diplomatic isolation of Egypt and consolidating the anti-Camp David accords front--born during the Baghdad summit.

The ministers sidestepped the U.S. decision to freeze Iranian funds in U.S. banks, which the Libyan and Syrian delegations sought in vain to bring before the meeting.

VOP Comment

JN172132 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 17 Nov 79 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] For the Arabs to be with Iran or with the United States was a self-imposed question haunting the meeting in Tunis.

The truth is that current Iranian-U.S. developments were an unwelcome guest that sneaked into the halls of the Hilton Hotel in the Tunisian capital. This issue was the inescapable ghost that imposed itself on all who were present.

Among the many striking irregularities is the fact that those who came to cope with the Camp David accords were divided into various groups. One group was of the opinion that reality should not be ignored, for it has not forgotten that the main reason it came to the meeting was either explicitly or implicitly to condemn U.S. hegemony in the area. This group also believed that the U.S.-Iranian crisis is a sort of confrontation against U.S. hegemony and therefore it favored the idea of expressing solidarity with the Iranians against this hegemony. This simple fact of the struggle imposed itself on the conferees in Tunis and therefore it became necessary to come out with a stand on the issue. Thus, it is not strange that at this time a certain Arab side openly supported Carter and condemned Imam Khomeyni, another criticized the Iranian behavior and a third called on the conferees not to waste time on discussing this subject, which was not originally listed on the summit conference's agenda.

What is important is that the Tunis meetings eventually exposed the fact that some Arab regimes do not feel ashamed of supporting the U.S. aggression on the Iranian people's steadfastness. However, the fact remains that the mounting Iranian tide against U.S. imperialism is not limited to Iran itself. This will make it more difficult for the Arab regimes to stand in the face of Khomeyni's [word indistinct] in the area. No one can continue to say that he is against the Camp David accords but at the same time opposes Iranian steadfastness in the face of U.S. hegemony. Actually, the deteriorating Iranian-U.S. crisis makes it important for all regimes to clarify their stands: either with Iran's steadfastness against imperialism or with U.S. imperialism and consequently with As-Sadat and the Camp David accords. The Iranian people have defeated fear and have overcome the pretext of not brandishing the weapon of oil in Washington's face. One final point is the stories about the evaporation of Arab deposits in U.S. banks and the influence of the Arab lobby, particularly after Carter's decision to freeze the Iranian assets in the United States.

In short, there are no more excuses to justify the defective Arab situation in our area. The cloak of solidarity and the confrontation with Camp David, As-Sadat and Israel is no longer good for hiding the shortcomings of the Arab stand, unless a miracle emerges within the next few days from the halls of the Tunis Hilton.

FATAH'S ABU SALIH MEETS WITH NASIRITE LEADER

JN181415 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 18 Nov 79 JN

[Text] Brother Abu Salih, member of the Fatah Central Committee and of the Al-'Asifah Forces General Command, met with brother Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of the independent Nasirite movement, Al-Murabitun, yesterday. The two officials reviewed the results of Qulaylat's visit to Austria and his meeting with Chancellor Bruno Kreisky in light of current international initiatives dealing with the Middle East crisis, including the Palestinian and Lebanese issues. They also touched on political issues in light of the results of the Arab foreign ministers meetings in Tunis and in light of the suspicious proposed working paper.

BAHRAIN

GOVERNMENT SAID REVIEWING EXTENSION OF U.S. FACILITIES

JN171149 Amman AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 17 Nov 79 p 1 JN

[Text] Reports from the Gulf area say that the Bahraini Government is currently reviewing the extension of facilities to U.S. military units. The reports say that a number of political circles in the government are calling for an end to facilities and assistance to the U.S. fleet. These sources pointed out U.S. statements on occupying the Gulf and attempts to incite sectarian sedition.

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM TUNIS, COMMENTS

JN172144 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 2057 GMT 17 Nov 79 JN

[Text] Manama, 17 November--Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah returned here from Tunis this evening after having led his country's delegation to the Arab foreign ministers conference, which opened in Tunis on Thursday and concluded its work today.

In a statement to the GULF NEWS AGENCY, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak said that the ministers prepared for the 10th Arab summit conference, scheduled to be held in Tunis on Tuesday. He said that the atmosphere of the conference was permeated by a constructive and objective spirit, something which was not present at previous meetings on this level.

He pointed out that a comprehensive working paper has been prepared on the current and future stage of Arab action for the Palestinian people's cause as well as on the ways to coordinate among the Arab states in the political and economic fields and in relations with other countries.

He added that a working paper has been drafted on dealing with the volatile situation in southern Lebanon with the hope that it will be approved by the Arab kings, amirs and presidents in their forthcoming meeting in Tunis on 20 November.

The Bahraini minister explained that the developments included in the draft papers which will be submitted to the summit have been characterized by deep understanding of the current situation in the Arab homeland and the serious challenges facing it, whether from the Zionist enemy or other sources.

KUWAIT

GOVERNMENT 'REGRETS' U.S. DECISION ON IRANIAN ASSETS

LD181342 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1220 GMT 18 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 18 November--Kuwait today expressed its regret at U.S. President Carter's decision to freeze Iranian funds in American banks in the United States and abroad and warned of the serious consequences this measure will have on international trade and future world financial relations. In a statement issued following its regular meeting today, the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers expressed its regret at the American measure "which has caused extreme concern for the future of world financial relations." The statement, read to the press by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, said that this decision will expose the desired world economic stability to dangers of untold consequences.

'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn added that Kuwait does not approve of this measure and warns against its consequences. He added that this measure "is considered an extremely grave matter and a precedent which gives a simple meaning to national interest, opening the door wide for personal interpretations in this grave matter, thereby shaking confidence in the world banking system and prompting a hampering of international trade relations and leading to a shrinking of international trade."

The Kuwaiti minister of state denied reports that American paratroopers had landed in Kuwait for use in freeing the hostages at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran who are detained by Iranian students there. He described these reports as biased rumors which are totally baseless. He said that Kuwait conveyed this denial to Iran through its ambassador there yesterday.

FOREIGN MINISTER PROTESTS IRAN REPORTS ABOUT U.S. TROOPS

NC181325 Paris AFP in English 1314 GMT 18 Nov 79 NC

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 18 (AFP)--Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Rashid ar-Rashid has lodged a protest with the Iranian Embassy here against "recent Iranian reports announcing the arrival of American troops in Kuwait and Bahrain."

Mr ar-Rashid informed 'Ali Shams Ardakani, the Iranian ambassador here, of his government's concern over such "groundless" and "useless" reports, official sources said here today.

ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION HELD AT IRANIAN EMBASSY

NC161215 Paris AFP in English 1156 GMT 16 Nov 79 NC

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 16 (AFP)--The United States flag and an effigy of President Jimmy Carter were burned today in front of the Iranian Embassy by an estimated 200 Iranian workers, it was reported here. The demonstrators passed out leaflets stating that they supported the occupation of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, described as a center of American spying. The leaflets demanded the extradition of the shah, his appearance before a revolutionary tribunal and the return of his and his family's wealth. The protestors also condemned the freeze of Iranian assets in the U.S. ordered by Mr. Carter.

OMAN

OFFICIAL DENIES LANDING OF U.S. PARATROOPS IN OMAN

JN181131 Doha QNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 18 Nov 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 18 November--The Omani ambassador to Kuwait, Yusuf 'Ubayd al-Harithi, has denied that U.S. paratroopers have landed in countries in the area, particularly in Oman. In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH today, the Omani ambassador said that the landing of U.S. paratroopers in this sensitive area because of the Iranian events is an unlikely possibility and that, should such a landing take place, it would not be done in secret, for the world would be shaken by such movements.

The Omani ambassador added: The United States realizes that such a military operation would place the entire area in a state of tension and trouble and that all the countries in the area would reject any intervention in their territories or in their internal affairs, because all wish to keep this area free from the tension and conflict between the two superpowers.

The Omani ambassador excluded the possibility that Iranian students may carry out an operation in the Hormuz Strait. He also excluded the possibility that the Iranian Government might occupy the strait in order to hamper navigation there. The Omani ambassador concluded that Iran's policies continue to be based on the maintenance of security and stability in the Gulf.

SULTAN CALLS FOR SECURITY, STABILITY IN GULF, INDIAN OCEAN

JN181302 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1135 GMT 18 Nov 79 JN

[Text] Muscat, 18 November--Sultan Qahus of Oman has called on Gulf countries to cooperate, coordinate and consult among themselves in the political and security spheres to secure stability and security in the Gulf area.

In a speech he delivered during celebrations today on the occasion of Oman's ninth national day anniversary, Sultan Qabus urged all the countries that benefit from the Hormuz Strait, "over which his country exercises direct supervision," to partake of the responsibility of protecting this vital waterway against foreign dangers. He also stressed that his country will not hesitate to defend this waterway.

The sultan of Oman added that cooperation among Arab countries in the area is necessary for the protection of the security of the Strait of Hormuz. He added: Large quantities of the world's oil supplies pass through this strait and anything that might hamper navigation there would surely lead to serious results affecting the lives of thousands of people, who would suffer deprivations and misery. The sultan of Oman praised the solid relations that exist among his country, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries and their understanding of Oman's positions on all issues.

In his speech, Sultan Qabus stated that his country will frankly and strongly support any constructive initiative by any Arab or non-Arab leader aimed at settling the Middle East issue. The sultan of Oman said the world must shoulder the responsibility of seeking a just and comprehensive settlement in the area, which would restore their rights to the Palestinian people and preserve their dignity. He added: The steps achieved on peace in the area to date are not sufficient.

The sultan of Oman expressed his fears of the continued division and differences among Arab countries on one hand and the world's inability to settle the Middle East issue on the other. He said: This is what threatens our area.

On the situation in the Indian Ocean, Sultan Qabus said: It is not enough that the world recognizes this ocean as an area of international peace. The world has the responsibility of maintaining it as such and of taking all necessary measures to secure its stability and security.

Sultan Qabus expressed his country's strong objection to the establishment of any foreign bases in the area and to the superpowers' attempts to control the area. He called for a continuation of efforts to achieve disarmament. He said: The great powers have the duty to reduce production of destructive weapons.

Criticizes Aden, Moscow

LD181400 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1233 GMT 18 Nov 79 LD

[Excerpts] Muscat, 18 November--Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman today called on the Arab Gulf countries to coordinate their activities in the fields of security and politics to insure order and security in the oil-rich Gulf region. He also declared his country's support "openly and stongly" for any initiative by any Arab leader to put an end to the chronic Arab-Israeli conflict.

The sultan was speaking at a rally held to mark the ninth anniversary of his country. The sultan urged all countries which benefit from the strategically important Hormuz Straits, on which Oman is located, to protect this waterway, and to warn against the grave consequences of any act that would obstruct navigation in it.

Sultan Qabus criticized the attitude of some Gulf countries--which he did not name--toward the Omani plan, describing their attitude as "irresponsible." He accused these states of acting in a manner showing "political immaturity." In the light of this, he urged that these countries be prevented from persisting in such acts, which will expose world peace and security to danger. He declared that his country rejects any foreign interference with a view to imposing foreign domination and influence on the Gulf area.

The Omani leader attacked the Marxist regime in South Yemen, saying that the national identity of this country which is a neighbor of Oman "has been lost completely because of the huge presence of Soviet and Cuban forces there."

He accused the USSR of provoking feuds among the countries of the area as part of its "expansionist" policy which brings to mind "the worst eras of imperialism."

On the Arab-Israeli conflict, Sultan Qabus said that Oman will support any "constructive" initiative by any Arab or non-Arab leader that could lead to a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Unlike most of the Arab countries, Oman supported the Camp David Egyptian-Israeli-American agreements which led to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. But the sultan said that the steps made so far toward "peace" in the area cannot "be considered sufficient."

QATAR

OIL MINISTER FORESEES OIL PRICE INCREASE

LD180810 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0713 GMT 18 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Doha, 18 November--The Qatari minister of finance and oil, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, has stated that at its conference next month in Caracas, the Venezuelan capital, OPEC will increase its oil prices. The Qatari minister, who made this statement in an interview with the English-language GULF TIMES published here today, did not specify the size of the oil price increase.

He said it is unlikely that OPEC will intervene in the question of the hostages at the U. S. Embassy in Tehran despite the fact the Iran is an OPEC member and the United States one of OPEC's principal oil consumers. He added, however, that OPEC is prepared to offer its good offices "provided this will not harm any quarter. Basically, OPEC is an economic organization and not a political one and will not involve itself in political problems." He also said that he feels the question of the occupation of the U. S. Embassy and the holding of its staff by Iranian students is "an internal matter which concerns Iran alone."

The Qatari minister blamed the Western oil companies and their exorbitant profits for any increase OPEC will make above the present ceiling of $23.50 per barrel when it convenes in Caracas on 17 December. He said that there is another matter which occupies OPEC's attention: the fluctuating dollar and inflation. But he did not think it likely that the dollar will be dropped as an oil currency at present to be replaced by a basket of currencies. However, he said, this could happen if there is a radical change in the dollar.

Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz called on the consumer industrial states to rationalize their energy consumption and warned that failure to develop plans to conserve energy will lead to a catastrophe. He also called on the oil-exporting countries to help conserve energy by cutting down production. Qatar, he said, does not plan to increase its oil production. On the contrary, its production diring the past 10 months was less than its rate of production last year, which was half a million barrels per day, while the current daily production is only 492,000 barrels.

Denies Increased Production

JN171845 Doha QNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Nov 79 JN

[Text] Doha, 17 November--Qatari Finance and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani has denied what has been reported by news agencies regarding Tehran radio's report on a Qatari oil production increase. The minister stressed in a statement to QNA that Qatar's oil production for 1979 has not exceeded the scheduled average of 500,000 barrels a day. He added that the actual average of production during the first 10 months of this year was 492,000 barrels a day, which is less than that scheduled. There is no intention to increase this average, he said.

The minister added that these are certain precise facts and that therefore it is really deplorable that news reports, completely denied by these facts, are propagated. Such reports, he said, lead to completely groundless comments, in additon to their being incompatible with the nature of the existing fraternal relations between Qatar and its neighbor, the fraternal Iranian Islamic Republic, relations which should be bolstered and strengthened for the welfare of the two countries.

SAUDI ARABIA

KINGDOM WILL NOT MAKE UP U.S. OIL SHORTFALL

LD170940 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0755 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh--Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has denied that the kingdom will make up the oil shortfall in the United States following its halting of Iranian oil imports.

In his statement published today in AR-RIYAD and AL-BILAD, he said that what has been reported in that connection is unfounded. He stressed that the kingdom is anxious to invest its natural resources in revenues in a manner serving the cause of God and His religion and the Arab and Islamic nations. He pointed to the kingdom's projects to serve the interest of pilgrims as a good example.

In his statement the prince also expressed the hope that the 10th Arab summit, due to be held in Tunis next Tuesday, will achieve full success in the interest of the Arabs and Islam, adding: "We attach great importance to the results of the summit in the present circumstances."

PETROLEUM MINISTER GRANTS INTERVIEW TO AMMAN TELEVISION

JN172052 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Nov 79 JN

[Interview given by Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, to an unnamed Jordan television correspondent in Amman on 17 November--videotaped]

[Text] [Question] How do you assess the increase in oil prices under the current circumstances?

[Answer] Unfortunately, the oil prices have gone mad. The price per barrel on the Rotterdam and other markets has increased $40. This is due to the speculation of some oil companies and the purchase and storage of oil by some Western oil-consuming countries. This has led to an absurd increase in price. Consequently, this motivated some of the oil-producing countries, such as Britain and Mexico and other OPEC members, to increase their oil prices.

[Question] In view of the fact that Iran is an oil state in this area, what is your comment on the U. S. decision to freeze the Iranian assets and properties?

[Answer] Generally speaking, we are sorry for this wedge and dispute between fraternal, Mulsim, neighboring and dear Iran and the United States, which is the main oil importer on the one hand and the main market for financial investment on the other. We therefore hope that this wedge will end and the relations will return to normal.

[Question] Do you believe that this decision constitutes [passage indistinct]?

[Answer] Actually, we cannot compare the oil weapon with the weapon of freezing the assets. This is because the oil weapon is an effective, strong and very serious weapon. The weapon of freezing the assets has side and adverse effects against those who wish to freeze the assets. Therefore, there is not room for comparison.

[Question] Do you think that this decision would motivate the OPEC member states that want to replace the dollar as a currency for calculating its oil sales? In particular, do you think that this measure might lead to a primary change in the world monetary order to end the dollar domination?

[Answer] It is not that simple. There is not a single currency in the world that can replace the dollar as a means for payment. For example, if we choose the deutschemark or the yen as means for payment, the world markets would be shaken. Japan and the FRG would rush to ask OPEC to cancel the decision. The dollar is the splendid currency which can absorb these large-scale trade exchanges in the oil markets.

[Question] How do you assess the stability of security in the Gulf area at present?

[Answer] I can see no changes in the general security situation in the Gulf area. The Gulf states must provide this security.

Comments on Iran

JN181241 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Nov 79 pp 1, 11 JN

[By Muhammad Abu Ghawsh]

[Excerpt] Mr Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi petroleum and mineral affairs minister, has announced that current events between Iran and the United States have no impact at all on the oil situation in general.

This came in reply to a question by AD-DUSTUR on the repercussions of the actions and the countermeasures taken by the two sides, particularly the United States' decision to freeze Iranian assets, on the oil situation in the world. Dr Yamani said: Neither the oil events, represented in the suspension of Iranian oil exports to the United States, nor the freezing of assets will have any impact on the oil situation in general. As long as Iran produces more than 3 million barrels a day, the state of supply and demand will continue as it now stands. Therefore, these events will have only a psychological impact, rather than an economic one. As for the freezing of assets, it has a financial impact but not one on oil.

Answering another question by AD-DUSTUR on the OPEC member states' possible solidarity with Iran, which is an oil country and a founding member of OPEC, in view of the retaliatory measures being taken against it--a matter that threatens member states with the possibility of similar measures, particularly regarding the freezing of assets--Dr Yamani said: Iran has not requested OPEC to adopt any stand. Furthermore, OPEC is not concerned with political problems that might ensue between a member state and other world states.

Answering a question on the possible reconsideration of the dollar as a unit of account and use of a basket of currencies, in view of current developments and expected repercussions, Dr Yamani replied: There is no connection whatever between the use of a basket of currencies as a means for pricing and the freezing of assets. He added: If a basket of currencies were to be adopted to replace the dollar, the aim would be to protect the revenues of OPEC member states from financial fluctuations in the monetary markets. It has no connection to any other matter. We in OPEC did use a basket of currencies for a long time until 1974, when we stopped using it and went back to the dollar.

Asked by AD-DUSTUR about the Saudi position at the forthcoming OPEC conference on expected oil price hikes, Dr Yamani replied: As is its custom, Saudi Arabia adopts a moderate and middle-of-the-road line, due to its desire to spare the world an economic catastrophe.

YASIR 'ARAFAT ARRIVES FROM BAGHDAD 18 NOV

ID182040 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1755 GMT 18 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh--Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived here this evening from Baghdad. He was welcomed at the airport by the deputy amir of the Riyadh region, His Royal Highness the Amir Sittam ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, and a number of senior officials.

Meets With King

JN190609 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 19 Nov 79 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, met in Riyadh last night with King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. The meeting was attended by Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. Discussion at the meeting dealt with various issues related to the Palestinian, Arab and international situation, particularly issues on the agenda of the Arab summit conference, which is to begin tomorrow, Tuesday, in the Tunisian capital. The meeting was positive and fruitful.

Departs 19 Nov

ID190842 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0825 GMT 19 Nov 79 ID

[Text] Riyadh, 19 November--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Riyadh this morning at the end of a brief visit to the kingdom. He was bid farewell by the deputy amir of Mecca, Prince Sittam ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. Fatah representative in Iran Hani al-Hasan; PLO representative in Saudi Arabia Rafiq Shakir an-Natshah and an official of the Royal Protocol Department.

UAE

AL-WAHDAH CRITICIZES FREEZING OF IRANIAN ASSETS

JN171130 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0755 GMT 17 Nov 79 JN

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 17 November--The Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-WAHDAH today says: A new lesson should be learned from the incident in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. Those who believed that the United States was an oasis of security for their funds, revenues and reserves have discovered how wrong and deluded they were. Those who escaped from the frying pan of confiscation and nationalization have fallen into the fire of open confiscation in daylight under the protection of democratic laws. What has befallen Iran might not make it submit to the threats, but it clearly reveals the weak position of those who are defending the idea of investments abroad and the frailty of security in Western European countries and the United States in particular.

If some believe that Washington's measures toward Iranian assets in U.S. banks are exceptional measures linked to the situation of the hostages in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, then they should be aware that there are many exceptional bases that might take place between the United States and the Arab countries and there are many cases in which the United States might resort to the same exceptional measures it has adopted regarding the Iranian assets in its banks.

U.S.-Arab relations will be hampered as long as the United States continues to disavow principles of justice in its dealings in the Arab-Zionist dispute. We shall not be able to protect our funds and assets in U.S. banks from confiscation unless we are ready to sacrifice our national rights and mortgage our political will along with our funds that are in U.S. banks.

U.S. ENVOY STRAUSS ARRIVES FOR PEACE CELEBRATION

NC181204 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1202 GMT 18 Nov 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 November--Robert Strauss, envoy of U.S. President Jimmy Carter, arrived in Cairo today at the head of a delegation of American officials to attend the Egyptian celebrations marking the second anniversary of the peace initiative and the transfer of the St Catherine's area.

He was met at the airport by Foreign Ministry Ambassador Mustafa Tawfiq and U.S. ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton.

As-Sadat, Strauss Press Conference

NC181519 Cairo MENA in English 1505 GMT 18 Nov 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, Nov. 18 (MENA)--President as-Sadat and Robert Strauss, President Carter's envoy, today held a press conference following their meeting at the barrage resthouse.

At the beginning of the press conference, President as-Sadat said: May I seize this opportunity to welcome my dear friend Strauss, who will be sharing with us this great achievement. For sure we shall always cherish the memory of working together on the problem of the Middle East. Strauss has shifted to the campaign of President Carter; our best wishes for him in his task.

It is really a very happy occasion for me to meet with his distinguished delegation who would share with us our happy moment for this big achievement that we have reached. This achievement has been reached mainly not because of my initiative but mainly because of the efforts of my dear friend President Carter, whom I described in time as the unknown soldier behind this and the gallant American people's attitude, understanding, friendship and help.

President as-Sadat added in the press conference: As I told them we are very happy because the U.S. has shared with us the difficult moment and now they are sharing with us the very happy moment of celebrating tomorrow on Mount Sinai, the sacred place for all of us, the three religions.

We shall always feel indebted as I told them. My people and I, we shall always be the friends that will always be genuine and sincere to our friends of the U.S. in the difficult moments and in the happy moments, President as-Sadat said.

With my friend Strauss, we had a survey of the situation today and I am very happy to say that like before, our views are identical and our efforts are really ready to keep the momentum of the peace process and achieve the comprehensive peace in the area here. Thank you.

Further Remarks

NC181605 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Nov 79 NC

[Exerpts] This afternoon at his resthouse in Al-Qanatir, Al-Khayriyah, President Anwar as-Sadat received Robert Strauss, the former envoy of President Carter to the Middle East, who is heading a delegation of U.S. businessmen. U.S. ambassador in Cairo, Alfred Atherton attended the meeting.

Regarding his talks with Strauss, the President said: Our discussions dealt with the entire situation. Our views are identical: That efforts should continue to give new momentum to the peace process in order to achieve a stage of durable and just peace in the area.

Asked if Israel's measures against [Nabulus Mayor] Bassam ash-Shak'ah would affect the autonomy discussions, the president said that he had explained Egypt's position on this matter to Dr Mustafa Khalil, and that the Egyptian delegation currently in Tel Aviv had instructions to raise this problem with the Israeli side. His excellency added that the two sides had many problems and that they should sit down together to solve them rather than shout.

Asked whether the situation in Iran was discussed with Strauss, his excellency said: We have, most certainly, discussed the situation. President Carter has enough wisdom to deal with such a situation. The American people stand as one behind President Carter. Questioned if the autonomy question would be solved before next May, his excellency said that he was always optimistic.

Strauss said afterward that he would represent President Carter and the United States at the Sinai celebrations, adding that since President as-Sadat's initiative 2 years ago, the American people feel they are indebted to President as-Sadat, President Carter and Mr Begin for their efforts to achieve a durable peace in the Middle East.

Strauss announced that Mr Linowitz, the new envoy to the Middle East, will arrive in December.

AS-SADAT SPEECH AT ST CATHERINE'S CEREMONY

NC191113 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1014 GMT 19 Nov 79 NC

[Speech by President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat at St Catherine's in Sinai at ceremony marking the handing over of the area to Egyptian administration--live]

[Text] In the name of God, my dear friend, Bob Strauss, envoy and representative of our friend President Carter; brother faithful friends everywhere:

On the second anniversary of my historic visit to Jerusalem, en route to peace and human fraternity, we stand solemnly today at the approach to the sacred valley of Tuwah, the sacred spot of Egypt's good land which was given great favor by the almighty God who revealed himself on the mountain and taught his prophet the book and taught him wisdom. It was God's will that this part of the world was the place where the three heavenly messages were revealed. This the cradle of the monolithic religions which manifest the unity of the immortal human march throughout the ages and underline the noblest values which have guided man through his long history. These are the values of tolerance and coexistence among all people. [applause]

From this chaste honorable spot, and with a heart full of faith and love I make an appeal and address a greeting. The appeal is to all the people of the world to be guided by the teachings of the almighty God and his virtuous prophets, including their call for fraternity and good works and their prohibition of bloodshed, violence and hatred, and also including all the meanings of God almighty's honoring of man.

The greeting is a sincere one to all those who have supported the peace initiative and grasped its great humanitarian dimensions and deep significance, and who have participated in achieving its results in the interests of the forthcoming generations--our children and grandchildren.

Peace has now become a shining fact. It is imperative for it to be completed and for its links to follow one by one after this fact has settled in the conscience of the peoples and after it has become a part of their joint spiritual and cultural tradition. Nobody can any longer change it.

In order to epitomize all these sublime meanings, which are the essence of mankind's own existence, I hope that we will establish together, believing brothers and sisters everywhere, a memorial for this splendid achievement in this location which God almighty has sanctified. Every one of us will contribute to the establishment of this memorial, even if by giving only a few piasters. It is unimportant if this is done in a specific way or form, because the objective is the meaning of this action. It is enough for us to place a plaque or build a small monument, although I look forward to the building on this blessed plateau of a joint shrine for the three religions. In this shrine, the hearts of those who believe in these three religions will be unified and their souls will be purified when they turn in humility and prayer to God almighty, to the one creator, in raising praise, thanks and prayers. [applause]

To the believers throughout the world and to the millions of friends who have accompanied us on the march of peace in all dignity and honor; to these peoples who have borne the brunt of the construction of peace; namely, the Egyptian people, the Israeli people and the American people; and to my two partners in this great achievement, my two friends, President Carter and Prime Minister Begin [applause] to all these people I dedicate the august occasion.

On behalf of the believing people of Egypt, I declare that as of now, this place will be open for those who believe in the three divine religions without restrictions. [applause] Perhaps this action will light our way to the future. May God take care of us and guide our steps on his straight path. Peace be with you. [applause]

Radio Continues Coverage

NC1911051 [Editorial Report NC] At 1024 GMT on 19 November, after Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat concludes his speech at the St Catherine's monastery at the foot of Mt Sinai, Cairo radios continue coverage of the ceremonies marking the handover of the area from Israel to Egypt. The announcer says President as-Sadat is given a document authorizing the transfer of the area from the Egyptian military authorities to the Egyptian civilian administration. The president signs this document and then accepts gifts from representatives of residents of the area. The gifts consist of handicrafts made by the residents of the area. The Egyptian national anthem is then played, and the live relay ends at 1030 GMT.

NEGOTIATING TEAM OFFICIAL CRITICIZES ISRAELI POLICY

NC180753 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0722 GMT 18 Nov 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 November--Ambassador Ahmad 'Izzat 'Abd al-Latif, head of the Egyptian working team and official spokesman of the Egyptian side to the autonomy negotiations, has stressed that the Israeli Government's decisions to build new settlements and deport the mayor of Nabulus completely contravene the Camp David agreements which provide for freezing the establishments for a period of 5 years. The Israeli measures are creating a negative atmosphere completely opposed to the need to build trust as agreed upon.

Ambassador Ahamd 'Izzat 'Abd al-Latif explained that the autonomy negotiations have now reached the midway point in both duration and action. Regarding future possibilities resulting from Israeli practices, new changes in the Begin government and the appointment of a new U.S. delegate, Ambassador 'Abd al-Latif said that Egypt is committed to the provisions of Camp David as far as timing and conclusion of the negotiations by next May are concerned.

He added: Current events will not deter us from achieving our goal as planned. As regards the U.S. delegate, whoever he may be his strength is derived from the fact that he is a personal representative of President Carter and he will be an able U.S. diplomat.

GOVERNMENT NAMES NEW AMBASSADOR TO SOVIET UNION

NC181925 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Nov 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 November--The Arab Republic of Egypt has decided to appoint Samih Anwar as ambassador in Moscow. Soviet ambassador in Cairo, Vladimir Polyakov has informed the (?Egyptian) Foreign Ministry of his country's approval of the appointment of Samih Anwar to his new post.

Samih Anwar is currently holding the post of Egyptian ambassador in London.

GHALI CRITICIZES ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE

NC172143 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2055 GMT 17 Nov 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 November--Minister of state for foreign affairs Dr Butrus Ghali described the rejectionist countries' stand as characterized by inability, negativism and stagnation. He stressed that Egyptian diplomatic efforts would continue no matter what resolutions were adopted by these countries at the Tunis meetings.

This was contained in a statement Ghali made to Egyptian television. Asked about the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Tunis in preparation for the Arab summit, Ghali said that the problem of the rejectionist countries was that they failed to offer any course of action or an alternative to President as-Sadat's initiative. Their method is that of adopting a negative, stagnant and rejectionist position. They are unable to catch up with the developments in the international community. Consequently, the resolutions to be adopted by the Tunis conference will be void legally and politically because anything based on a false premise is invalid and because the resolutions will not present a positive step to help the Egyptian initiative.

Butrus said the rejectionist countries were content with their negative stand, and thus Egyptian diplomatic efforts would continue regardless of the resolutions and frenzied reactions of the counties that are meeting in Tunis.

Asked about the normalization of Egyptian-Israeli relations, Butrus Ghali stressed that it would take place in stages according to the provisions of the Camp David agreements. He said that diplomatic representation would take place before 26 February. He pointed out that so far no ambassador had been appointed to represent Egypt in Israel. Ghali stressed that bilateral relations would be purely normal and not special or exceptional, as certain papers report.

Comments on Nabulus Mayor

NC171655 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 17 Nov 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 November--Commenting on the UN General Assembly's resolution regarding Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah, minister of state for foreign affairs Butrus Ghali said: "The resolution indicates that the world community is showing understanding of the Arab world and is condemning Israel's intransigence."

The UN General Assembly earlier adopted a unanimous resolution calling on the Israeli Government to withdraw its decision calling for the deportation of Bassam ash-Shak'ah.

PLO'S 'ARAFAT ARRIVES FOR TALKS 18 NOV

JN180807 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 18 Nov 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 18 November--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived here at dawn today on a visit to Iraq. On arrival, Mr 'Arafat stated that during his visit he will hold consultations with President Saddam Husayn and Iraqi officials on various Arab issues prior to the convocation of the forthcoming Arab summit conference in Tunis.

'Arafat added that the strategic relations between the Palestinian and Iraqi revolutions "makes it incumbent upon us, whenever matters escalate in our region, to hold expeditious consultations and discussions, proceeding from the one trench in which we are fighting."

'Arafat was received by Comrade Na'im Haddad, Ba'th Party National Command member and official in charge of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Office; Comrade Nasif 'Awwad, deputy official in charge of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Office; and the comrade directors and members of the office. He is accompanied on his visit by Muhammad Abu Mayzar, official in charge of foreign relations in Fatah.

Meets President

IRAQI PRESIDENT RECEIVES PLO'S 'ARAFAT IN BAGHDAD 18 NOV

JN181100 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 18 Nov 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 18 November--President Saddam Husayn received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat here today. During the meeting a discussion was held on all the Arab issues that will be debated at the 10th Arab summit conference, which will begin in Tunis on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by Na'im Haddad, Ba'th Party National Command member and head of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Office; and Muhammad Abu Mayzar, official in charge of foreign relations in the PLO. 'Arafat arrived here at dawn today.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN181547 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1532 GMT 18 Nov 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 18 November--Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, left Baghdad this evening following a brief visit to Iraq. 'Arafat described his talks with President Saddam Husayn as important.

In a predeparture statement, 'Arafat said that the talks were extremely positive and fruitful. The talks dealt with issues that concern the Palestinian problem, the current developments in the Arab area, topics that will be raised at the 10th Arab summit conference and all pan-Arab issues.

'Arafat added that the outcome of his talks with President Saddam Husayn will be reflected in more than one field based on the joint strategic stand of Iraq and the Palestinian revolution as well as on the president's understanding of all the pan-Arab issues.

'Arafat was seen off at Baghdad airport by Comrade Na'im Haddad, Ba'th Party National Command member and official in charge of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Office.

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM TUNIS 17 NOV

JN171939 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 17 Nov 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 November--Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi returned home tonight after taking part in the Arab foreign ministers meetings which concluded in Tunis today.

Speaking to an INA correspondent, Dr Hammadi said that the conferees came out with two working papers, one on the Arab situation and the Arab-Zionist conflict and the other on the current developments in Lebanon.

Foreign Minister Hammadi emphasized that these two working papers are the outcome of all working papers proposed during the meetings and have merged from the various opinions and the discussions of the main meeting as well as the meetings of the drafting committee.

Hammadi stressed that the Iraqi working paper to the meeting was adopted as the foundation of the discussions after adding to it certain suggestions derived from the other working papers proposed to the conferees.

Dr Hammadi added that the final document, which was approved this morning, has further underlined that the Baghdad summit resolutions are the base and that the Arab situation has witnessed positive changes since then. He also pointed out that this document has further stressed the principles adopted at the ninth Arab summit conference and has reiterated the Arab condemnation of the Camp David accords as first stated in the Baghdad summit resolutions.

Hammadi added that the document includes draft resolutions calling for further strengthening the Arab stand and creating a new intrinsic Arab power in all spheres, including the political moves in the coming year and until the convocation of the next Arab summit.

Dr Hammadi lauded the positive atmosphere and the sense of cooperation that prevailed at the Arab foreign ministers meetings and emphasized that the points of agreement outweighed the points of disagreement.

Dr Hammadi explained that the draft resolutions achieved by the Arab foreign ministers have to a great extent been drafted in their final form. However, the foreign ministers left other issues for the Arab leaders to decide on. Hammadi stressed that the conferees' points of view were either identical or close and that there were no extreme disagreements.

The Iraqi foreign minister emphasized that the Arab foreign ministers reached a draft document which includes a number of resolutions. These resolutions were not easy to attain. Nevertheless, this is the best we could achieve. Dr Hammadi explained that this issue will be discussed in detail at the 10th Arab summit conference.

In conclusion, Dr Hammadi emphasized that there is a common belief that it is necessary to hold an Arab summit conference every year. He said: I believe that all of us are convinced and prepared to do that. Hence, I think that the next Arab summit conference will be held on schedule a year from now.

SAUDI SHAYKH YAMANI ARRIVES 17 NOV

JN171702 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Nov 79 JN

[Text] Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, arrived in Amman this afternoon to participate in the ministerial meeting of the Arab Organization for Mineral Resources. In a statement to journalists at Amman airport about the meetings of the Arab Organization for Mineral Resources, Shaykh Yamani said the Arab nation currently occupies a prominent position in the oil sphere and can use this element to achieve many of its aspirations.

Delegations participating in these meetings arrived in Amman this morning and last night. These include the Iraqi, Moroccan, UAE, Kuwaiti, Qatari and PLO delegations. During its 3-day meetings, the organization will discuss its working plan and its 1980 working program.

Meets King Husayn

JN181719 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Nov 79 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, who is currently visiting Jordan to participate in the meetings of the Ministerial Council of the Arab Organization for Mineral Resources. The discussion during the meeting centered on the fraternal relations between the two countries and the general Arab situation.

ARAB MINERAL ORGANIZATION BEGINS MEETINGS 17 NOV

JN172137 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Nov 79 JN

[Text] The meetings of the ministerial council of the Arab Organization for Mineral Resources began in Amman today. Ahmad Kakhqan, deputy president of the natural resources authority and head of the Jordanian delegation, said that the organization will play an effective role in developing the mineral resources and coordinating among the Arab countries with the aim of achieveing better economic integration in the field of using the available mineral resources.

Moussa Saadi, Moroccan minister of energy and mining research and president of the Ministerial Council, said that the organization will have a competent body that will play an extremely significant role in coordinating Arab efforts in the field of mineral resources based on mutual benefit.

Ahmad Dakhqan, the head of the Jordanian delegation, has been elected president of the session to replace Saadi.

During its 2-day meetings the council will discuss the 1980 working program. Delegations representing Jordan, Kuwait, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Qatar, Morocco, the PLO and the Arab Organization for Administrative Science are participating in the meetings.

Meetings Conclude

JN182136 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Nov 79 JN

[Excerpts] The ministerial council of the Arab Organization for Mineral Resources ended its 2-day meetings in Amman this evening. Eng Ahmad Dakhqan, deputy president of the Natural Resources Authority and the council's current chairman, has stated that the council has adopted several recommendations, including the suspension of Egypt's membership in the organization. The Council approved the appointment of Eng Ahmad al-'Alawi Muhammadi from Morocco as the organization's secretary general for the next 4 years.

AL-HUSS, POLITICAL LEADERS COMMENT ON ARAB SUMMIT

NC190841 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Nov 79 NC

[Text] Answering a question by the press this morning on the occasion of the departure of the Lebanese delegation led by President Ilyas Sarkis to attend the Arab summit conference in Tunis, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said: Despite the clouds that gathered at the Arab foreign ministers conference and the dust kicked up around it, we are going to the summit conference with the hope of achieving results that will save the south from the dangers threatening it and end its suffering.

He added: The effects left by the discussions of the foreign ministers, which were sharp at times, only prompt us to double our efforts to restore an atmosphere of amity and understanding at the conference in order to promote results that would help us save the south. We are going to the summit conference with a positive spirit and an open mind coupled with insistence that the tragedy in the south be earnestly resolved. This resolution, in our view, is reflected in the general principles contained in the Lebanese working paper.

Al-Jumayyil Criticism

NC181430 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 18 Nov 79 NC

[Excerpt] Asked about his opinion of the Arab working paper adopted by the Arab foreign ministers conference yesterday, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said the paper is justified by those who prepared it but the fact that none of the resolutions adopted by the previous summit conferences in Cairo, Riyadh and Bayt ad-Din has been carried out indicates that either the resolutions were impractical and superficial or adopting a resolution is one thing and implementing it is another. This means that the Lebanese views on Lebanese issues must be considered. Only a Lebanese can deeply understand a Lebanese problem.

Al-Jumayyil said that it is clear from the draft of the Arab ministers' statement that those who made the draft and decided on it deliberately wanted to touch on the crisis without dwelling on the causes and the crux of the crisis.

Al-Jumayyil said the crisis in Lebanon is not an internal Lebanese crisis. If that were so the Lebanese would solve it among themselves in less than 24 hours. The crisis is strictly an inter-Arab conflict in Lebanon.

Al-Jumayyil said: In fact I sincerely hope that the crisis will not be presented to the summit as if Lebanon is a party to the conflict. The Arab officials must act as one party in tackling the ordeal that befalls all Arabs.

Sham'un Statement

NC181450 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 18 Nov 79 NC

[Excerpts] Answering newsmen's questions, Camille Sham'un ruled out the possibility of any useful results from the Arab summit conference because the Palestinians and Syrians are adopting intransigent stands with Moscow's blessing.

Camille Sham'un said: From the beginning I was against calling a summit conference because I knew the positions and weak points. Duty prompts me to praise the foreign minister's courageous stand although I disagree with the call for a summit. I acknowledge that Fu'ad Butrus' stand deserves appreciation and support.

No matter what resolutions are adopted by the Palestinians or countries on their side, the Palestinians want only a Palestinian revolution. Their logic is unsound and obviously selfish. Such unsound logic manifests itself in the armed Palestinian presence in southern Lebanon. This presence will not do the Palestine question any good nor will it affect the Camp David agreements. We could have dealt with these two issues on a different basis.

Sham'un pointed out that the Arab countries supporting the Palestinian stand should have offered their territory as a springboard for the revolution against Israel. It is easy for a country to contribute other people's lands and expose them to devastation.

Sham'un said: I believe that the conference will not achieve decisive results. Its only value is to help us realize our stand toward the revolution and toward the Arab countries supporting it.

Asked his views on whether the Lebanese working paper has any drawbacks, Sham'un said: I have nothing against it, but I was opposed to limiting the subject to southern Lebanon. I want the discussions to deal with the whole of Lebanon. True, battles do not take place in southern Lebanon, however the situation is abnormal not only in the south but also in other parts of Lebanon. For example, there is aggression by Palestinians belonging to the Syrian Army in Sannin. The government seems to forget that every night the markets and the port area witness battles by Palestinians belonging to the Syrian forces.

VOL: AL-HUSS, 'ARAFAT FAIL TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES

NC161814 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 16 Nov 79 NC

[Text] Today, Prime Minister al-Huss met PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in an attempt to resolve Lebanese-Palestinian differences at the Tunis summit. The meeting took place during a luncheon at (Hasib) Sabbagh's house. However, it has been reported that Prime Minister al-Huss failed in his attempt when he discovered that 'Arafat's attitude was similar to Al-Qaddumi's in Tunis.

ASH-SHIYAH REGION SYRIAN ANTIAIRCRAFT COMMANDER SHOT

NC152045 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 15 Nov 79 NC

[Text] Tension flared up in Ash-Shiyah this evening following the shooting of the Syrian antiaircraft commander in the region, Capt 'Ali Wahbi, who was shot twice in the head.

HADDAD FORCES ISSUE SERIES OF ULTIMATUMS

NC190702 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Nov 79 NC

[Text] A delegation of free Lebanon employees has complained to the Voice of Hope administration that the housing bank is refusing to give them loans on a par with other employees. Delegation members said that if the states does not intervene to rectify this situation, they will resort to Israel's Hapoalim Bank and apply for loans from it.

The supply of various types of fuel has been cut to the villages of free Lebanon. The free Lebanon command is seeking to procure this supply from Israel at reduced prices. Furthermore, this command will be compelled to shell the Az-Zahrani refinery if fuel is not immediately secured from the said refinery. Forewarned is forearmed.

The 15,000-volt high tension line between An-Nabatiyah and Marj 'Uyun was cut long ago. We are being given sham promises that it will be repaired. If this line is not repaired within 48 hours, the command of the free Lebanon forces will find itself compelled to destroy the transformer station in An-Nabatiyah. Once again, forewarned is forearmed.

The same state of affairs holds true for the Shab'a waters, which have been totally diverted to the Hasbayya district villages, thus cutting off the villages of free Lebanon. If the water supply is not resumed to our villages within 48 hours, we will also be compelled to shell Hasbayya--we have been holding off from firing from Hasbayya for some time. However, patience has limits.

KHADDAM CONDEMNS U.S. POLICY TOWARD IRAN

JN182157 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 18 Nov 79 JN

[Text] Tunis--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has condemned the U.S. stand on the Iranian revolution and said it greatly endangers international relations.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent in Tunis today, Khaddam said: This stand shows how a big power tries to exercise the logic of force against a small state. He added that what is taking place in Iran now is strongly connected with what is taking place in the Middle East region, and this will necessarily reflect on the Arabs.

The minister pointed out in his statement that the pressures and troubles raised by the United States in the face of the Iranian revolution are, in the first place, due to the Iranian revolution's adoption of the Palestinian revolution and its antagonism to Zionism, Israel and As-Sadat's regime.

Khaddam said it is possible for us to submit this issue to the Arab summit meeting and we shall call on the Arabs to give the Iranian revolution every means of support.

TISHRIN URGES OPEC TO SUPPORT IRAN AGAINST U.S.

JN190702 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Nov 79 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Oil, From Swindling to Politicization," the newspaper TISHRIN says: The U.S. economic war against Iran continues to arouse diverse reactions. After freezing the Iranian assets in its banks, Washington has asked its allies to join in the boycott against Iran's oil. These allies--Europe and Japan--are studying the situation in order to understand the scope of the battle. They are apprehensive that this boycott policy against Iran might lead to the exact opposite of what they wish. They are afraid that the Iranian stand will be indestructible. They are particularly apprehensive, in case Iran has active allies in OPEC.

OPEC, then, is the decisive factor in the U.S.-Iranian conflict. In accordance with its labor regulations and its ethical tradition, OPEC is responsible for breaking the U.S. siege imposed against a member-state.

Referring to the role of oil in the Arab nation's struggle against enemies, the pressures that Washington might bring to bear and the numberous U.S. precedents of politicizing oil and other resources, TISHRIN says: If an Arab-U.S. conflict erupts--spearheaded by Israel and its unmasked ally, As-Sadat--these precedents leave no doubt that the United States will politicize anything that can weaken the Arab stand in its conflict against Israel. The paper adds: We still recall how Britain and France froze Egypt's assets during the 1956 aggression.

This confirms the fact that insistence on not politicizing Arab oil against the United States is not only a denial of Iran's rights as an OPEC member, but also an expression of a policy in support of the United States and against the rights of the Iranian and Arab peoples to use their resources in realizing their legitimate objectives.

ALGERIA

ALGERIAN-SOVIET ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT SIGNED

LD180002 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Text] The fifth session of the Algerian-Soviet joint committee has ended with the signing of a protocol of agreement regarding economic and commercial exchanges. The agreement was signed for the Algerian side by Mohamed Hadj Yala, member of the FLN Central Committee and minister of finance, and for the Soviet side by Mr Skachkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

Speaking after the signing ceremony, Hadj Yala said that the agreement is a new milestone in the strengthening of cooperation between Algeria and the USSR. He said he was convinced that the next meeting of the joint committee, to be held in Moscow, will bring further positive results.

Algeria, the minister of finance added, is always ready for discussions with friendly partners and for considering every proposal for the consolidation of ties and relations linking it to friendly countries. We remain, he continued, inspired by the will to find solutions to all problems and we remain in the same spirit at the side of partners who work for positive solutions. Paying tribute to Soviet people active in the social and economic sectors in Algeria, Hadj Yala said that this is indeed tangible proof of solidarity and fraternal ties uniting the two countries. Our exemplary friendship must show the way to others, above all, in order to strengthen the anti-imperialist front and fortify the socialist front, the minister of finance said in conclusion.

Speaking in turn, Mr Skachkov expressed pleasure at the conclusion of the talks. He mentioned the meeting he had with President Chadli Bendjedid.

The Algerian president, Mr Skachkov stressed in particular, has found profound words to describe Algerian-Soviet cooperation. And like him, I believe that the essential element is the indestructible friendship which unites our two countries and the development of existing relations. Development, Mr Skachkov added, must be not only economic and commercial, but also political.

FOREIGN MINISTER YAHIA COMMENTS ON TUNIS TALKS

LD181540 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Brother Mohamed Ben Yahia, member of the political bureau and minister of foreign affairs, in a statement to APS on his return to Algeria yesterday after leading the Algerian delegation to the conference of Arab Ministers which ended in Tunis yesterday, confirmed that the conference reached results which mark a new stage in the consolidation of Arab solidarity on the main objectives of the struggle of the Arab nation for the liberation of its lands and recovery of the national rights of the fraternal Palestinian people.

The minister explained that the conference made a comprehensive evaluation of the joint activity of sister countries which took part in the Baghdad summit, a precise analysis of the current stage through which the Arab cause is passing, [words indistinct] and also the tasks to be carried out in the various fields in accordance with a defined program to be submitted to the forthcoming summit conference in Tunis.

Brother Ben Yahia added that the attitude adopted by the Arab nation at the Baghdad summit has been proved sound by events and that there is a growing need today to deepen and develop it, to guarantee its continuity and effectiveness and to abort the intrigues aimed at undermining the gains of the Arab nation and hinder its liberation and progress. This requires continued struggle on all fronts, adherence to the main cause and more solidarity with the Palestinian resistance and the rights of the Palestinian people to freedom, sovereignty and independence.

The brother minister confirmed that condemnation of the Camp David agreements and the Israeli-Egyptian treaty, rejection of their results and effects, and the work to abort them by all means expresses the Arab nation's will to determine its destiny, control its resources, adhere to its rights and protect its supreme interests. Thus the liberation of all the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of Palestinian rights remain central to agreement of the Arab nation and support for Arab solidarity.

The brother minister added that the foreign ministers' conference laid down a general visualization of the coming stage and its needs at the Arab and international levels and a joint plan of action. The summit can [word indistinct] this plan in a way that keeps the initiative in our hands and the balance of power in the interest of our [word indistinct] cause, so that our efforts are not obstructed, especially as the enemy we face in this battle has many weapons and will resort to maneuvers and the application of pressure.

MEDITERRANEAN SOCIALIST PARTIES END ALGIERS MEETING

LD162300 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Nov 79 LD

[Text] The Permanent Secretariat of the Mediterranean progressive and socialist parties and organizations concluded its 2-day meeting this evening at the (Elysee) Hotel in Algiers. Five [as heard] parties and organizations took part: the FLN, the PLO, the Libyan General People's Congress, the Spanish Socialist Workers Party, the Maltese Labor Party and the Panhellenic Socialist Movement [PASOK]. The meetings were also attended by an observer representing the Egyptian progressive forces. The meetings discussed a number of issues including the results of the meeting of the Secretariat held in Athens. The conference also evaluated activity in the previous period.

The participants expressed satisfaction with the growth of the number of the parties and organizations which have joined the socialist and progressive movement of the Mediterranean. The attention of the conferees also centered on the activity of this movement for the future. Thus they reaffirmed the need to increase the number of meetings and conferences of popular organizations of the Mediterranean in the coming year, including a conference of women's organizations in Algiers, a conference of youth organizations in Malta, and a conference of youth organizations in the Jamahiriyah. As for seminars, a seminar will be held on the nonalined movement, aseminar on security and peace in the Mediterranean, one on what is called the energy crisis and its effects, one on a new economic system and another on the problems of immigration in the Mediterranean.

The Permanent Secretariat has called for the need to intensify contacts at bilateral and collective level to coordinate the efforts and adopt common stands to serve the interests and the security and the peace of the nations of the Mediterranean. The participants have decided that the next meeting of the Secretariat should be held in Malta.

At the end of the proceedings, the Secretariat adopted a resolution appealing to world public opinion and international organizations to condemn the Israeli acts of terror against the occupied territories and also secure the release of Bassam ash-Shak'ah, the mayor of Habulus, and cancel the decision to deport him.

Members of the Permanent Secretariat expressed deep concern at the increase in the maneuvers of imperialism, Zionism and their agents which increase tension in the Mediterranean and constitute a real threat to world peace. The Permanent Secretariat also expressed in conclusion its thanks and appreciation to the Algerian people and the FLN Party under the leadership of President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the party, for the welcome and hospitality and the attention given to the delegations taking part.

LIBYA

AT-TURAYKI CONDEMNS FREEZING OF IRAN'S ASSETS

LD171600 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Paris--Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki has condemned the decision to freeze Iranian deposits in American banks and stressed that it is "a provocative, international terrorist act" against Iran.

In an interview published today by the French LE MATIN, the foreign secretary added that what the United States has done is considered a very serious precedent and unjustified behavior, raising doubts about American policy, which used to claim that it respected the freedom of exchange.

The foreign secretary warned other countries against the consequences of this American measure and pointed out that the freedom of the movement of deposits is no longer guaranteed and that it is possible that similar steps might be taken against other countries.

He added: "Freezing the deposits of the Iranian people in the United States and asking some other countries not to import Iranian oil is an international terrorist act against Iran. This question must be debated at the next OPEC meeting in Caracas."

He explained that this question was raised at the Tunis meeting because it affects the Arab OPEC member countries. He stated that the decisions adopted by the United States must be debated at this conference. The brother foreign secretary said: We stand with the Iranian people in their demand that the shah be tried for the crimes he committed against them. He pointed out that the Arab foreign min sters showed their anxiety about these American actions and considered them unjustifiable.

JANA EDITOR CITED ON EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE EXERCISES

LD161326 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Yesterday the Egyptian Air Force carried out its largest exercise with live ammunition in the western desert near the borders with the Jamahiriyah. Various types of aircraft were used in this exercise, which was attended by the defense minister of the defeated president. Missiles and bombs were used.

The JANA political editor explained in his comment on this exercise that it is not by chance that the defeated president should carry out such obvious provocations against the people of the Jamahiriyah. Indeed, this move falls within the framework of the aggressive conspiracy against the Libyan Arab people which the defeated president is carrying out on the orders of his imperialist and Zionist masters to threaten the security of the Jamahiriyah, which firmly and solidly stands in the face of all challenges which the Arab region is facing and plays a pioneering role in the Arab nation toward the Arab-Zionist conflict. The editor pointed that it is nothing new for the regime of the defeated president to carry out such exercises and provocations against the Libyan Arab people. Indeed, since his capitulation to the Zionists, he has brought all his forces from the front with the enemy to the borders with the Jamahiriyah.

MOROCCO

FOREIGN SECRETARY BADDOU RETURNS FROM MOSCOW

LD161436 Rabat MAP in English 1211 GMT 16 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Rabat, Nov 16 (MAP)--Abderahmane Baddou, Moroccan secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, arrived here Wednesday night after the visit he paid to the Soviet Union.

Baddou told newsmen that he handed to the Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev a written message from King Hassan II of Morocco, and that he held talks with a number of Soviet officials to whom he explained the Moroccan position regarding the situation in north-west Africa.

"I showed to the Soviet officials the justice rightness of the Moroccan cause and underlined the efforts displayed by Morocco in order to put an end to the tension prevailing in the area, and ensure the development and the prosperity of the countries bordering on the Shara," stated Baddou.

MAP CITES BRZEZINSKI ON U.S. SUPPORT FOR MOROCCO

LD171508 Rabat MAP in English 1226 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Washington, Nov 17 (MAP)--"The United States will never allow that Morocco be attacked, without reacting," stated here last Tuesday Zbigniew Brzezinski, U.S. President Jimmy Carter's adviser for national security affairs, during a reception offered by the Moroccan ambassador to Washington, Ali Ben Jelloun.

During this reception, Brzezinski held talks with a number of political personalities on his recent trip to Algeria and on the tension prevailing in north-west Africa.

The American daily the WASHINGTON STAR which reported the news stated that Brzezinski affirmed, "As representative of the President of the United States, I went to Algeria to negotiate about the war in the Sahara formerly under Spanish rule, and to clearly explain to the Algerians that we will never allow that our allies, such as Morocco, be attacked without reacting."

TUNISIA

PRESS COMMENTS ON U.S. HANDLING OF IRANIAN CRISIS

LD171810 Tunis TAP in English 1438 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, Nov 17 (TAP)--The Tunisian daily LA PRESSE devotes its editorial to the American-Iranian crisis.

By allowing foreigners who are supposed to benefit from diplomatic immunity and the protection of the host country to be taken hostage, the daily writes, the Iranian authorities are breaching the most elementary rules and principles of morality and of international law for their part. The United States are certainly entitled to resort to whatever means they consider apt to contribute to freeing their citizens.

Nevertheless, Carter's decision to freeze Iranian assets deposited in the United States constitutes an unfortunate precedent in relations between states and even risks causing upheavals in the international monetary system. Instead of bidding against each other and inflaming passions, Washington and Tehran would do better to exercise wisdom and moderation if they want to find a happy ending to this affair to (?preserve) their future relations and thus the chance of world peace and stability.

Referring to the same question, the daily AS-SABAH considers it was not in the interest of the United States to ban Iranian oil imports and freeze Iranian assets. Independently of the breach of international law in taking diplomats as hostages, says the daily, the United States first provoked Tehran by allowing the former shah into the country.

WESTERN SAHARA

LAMINE CITED ON SPAIN'S POSITION ON SAHARA CONFLICT

LD161427 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 11 Nov 79 p 4 LD

[Manuel Ostos undated interview in Algiers with Prime Minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Repuglic Mohamed Lamine: "Spain's Neutrality Is Meaningless for the Saharan People"]

[Text] Question: Spain has reaffirmed its neutrality in the conflict and its position as a former administrative power. Why does the POLISARIO Front persist in rejecting the present Spanish government's position?

Answer: The "neutrality" which Spain is talking about has no meaning for the Saharan people. For 92 years Spain was in the Western Sahara. Historically, the Spanish Government had no justification for signing the tripartite agreement or any right to concede anything to a third party. How has this benefited Spain? What material advantages have been gained for the Spanish state? The agreement was backed by the Jemaa [Assembly], but that was dissolved in 1975. For us to regard Spain as neutral, it would have to officially recognize the reality of the Saharan people. The Union of the Democatic Center has done so, but not the Spanish Government.

Incomplete Decolonization

Question: Should one infer from those remarks that "positive neutrality" consists of the official recognition of the POLISARIO Front by the government headed by Adolfo Suarez?

Answer: In 1975 the Arias government failed to "see" that the Western Sahara provided much greater scope for Spain to move much more freely on the African Continent. In 1979 Spain's interests in Africa are obvious, but its attitude toward us is unchanged. The reality must be seen as it is. We are Bedouins and when we sell our cattle we do not ask ourselves whether or not they have suffered calamities. But selling cattle cannot be compared to selling human beings....

Question: In politics the practical side of matters does not always emerge clearly. The POLISARIO Front defends the historical links with Spain, but at the same time exerts pressure--too much, perhaps--on a government which, as Mr Suarez himself said right here in Algiers, has confirmed that the conflict is an aspect of an incomplete decolonization....

Answer: Suarez' remarks must not be quoted in isolation and we must not break everything which binds us Saharans and Spaniards together. But if we want mutual peace and cooperation with Spain, then Spain must accept its historical responsibilities. If the Spanish Government wants to carry out secret negotiations to bring about a positive solution to the problem, we will not oppose it--but we do demand that it bear in mind the existence of the Saharan people. Mr Perez Llorca [minister of the presidency] had the opportunity to approach us, but he failed to do so. We do not know why--if one of the contracting parties in the agreement has withdrawn--Spain does not acknowledge this reality. It is no insult to ask the Spanish Government to make a choice for the future....

Offer To Pardon Hassan II

Question: The Moroccan "mobile force" formed a few days ago is apparently continuing its march across the Western Sahara. The king of Morocco has guaranteed that in 2 months' time, the entire territory will be pacified. What do you think?

Answer: You could ask Hassan II again in 2 months' time...if the tea he was to have drunk in El Aaiun is still warm.... The military procession promised in 1975 is not yet over. Morocco does not understand the meaning of a liberation struggle and is talking about pardons. The POLISARIO Front solemnly offers to pardon Hassan II, we offer to pardon his crimes. This pardon will be possible when Morocco recognizes our rights to independence. Then we can start fruitful cooperation with the Moroccan people. As for the military aspect, it is impossible to annihilate our forces....

"We Are Opposed To Internationalizing the Conflict"

Question: The issue of alliances has recently been raised. Is the POLISARIO Front prepared to resort to outside military help?

Answer: We are opposed to internationalizing the conflict. But when another foreign force intervenes, we have options imposed on us which we did not want at the outset. We do not want to summon other foreign forces to intervene on our behalf. But if the situation deteriorates, the Saharan people will summon other forces. It is a very difficult decision to make, but a necessary one. The United States has mentioned its desire to see peace established in the Western Sahara through negotiation; but it is impossible to speak of peace and to supply weapons to one of the sides involved, especially when that side has always waged war on peoples struggling for their self-determination.

Question: Morocco has declared its willingness to attend the next meeting of the ad hoc committee in Monrovia.

Answer: This willingness is futile as long as the following two questions remain unanswered: Will Hassan II accept the OAU recommendations, and does Rabat want to start negotiations with the POLISARIO Front or not? As far as we are concerned, we trust in the action of OAU Chairman William Tolbert, who has promised to strive to insure observance of the African summit's decisions and defense of the people's right to self-determination.

CABINET DECIDES TO EVACUATE ELON MORE IN TWO STAGES

TA181112 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Nov 79 TA

[Text] The Cabinet has decided that the Elon More settlement will be evacuated in two stages: The 125 dunams will be returned immediately to the [Arab] inhabitants who had appealed to the Supreme Court. At a second stage, the rest of the area--about 560 dunams that the court has ruled were illegally seized--will be evacuated in a month to a month and a half. This has been learned by our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer.

Summing up the debate on Elon More, the prime minister emphasized that this is the one and only decision, that is, that the Cabinet will not discuss another compromise.

The decision has four clauses approved by the government legal adviser and the justice minister. The Cabinet will prepare the site on Jabal al-Kabir near Nabulus for the Elon More settlers in the near future, and this will cost about 60 million Israeli pounds. Our correspondent says that the fences around the 125 dunams to be returned to the owners may be torn down today and that some buildings there will be demolished.

Further Details

TA181206 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 18 Nov 79 TA

[Excerpt] A few minutes ago, the justice minister emerged from the Cabinet session and made the following remarks: [begin recording].

[Tamir] The letter and spirit of the court ruling on Elon More will be carried out, as we have always demanded. The part mentioned in the formal decree for the evacuation of the appellants' plots will be evacuated by Wednesday [21 November], namely, within 30 days of the court ruling as specified in the judgment. I am pleased that the entire Cabinet was convinced that the second part of the settlement must also be evacuated. There is no court order specifying a date for evacuation of that tract, and it was decided that the date will be in 4--at most 6--weeks, during which the Cabinet, in coordination with the settlers, will prepare the new site, so that the court judgement will be honored to the letter and in spirit and the settlers will be transferred to the new site.

The prime minister has expressed the hope--and I assume and am convinced that it is well-founded--that this will indeed result in both honoring the court's ruling and in the prevention of a physical confrontation

[Schiffer, Jerusalem Radio political correspondent] But, Sir, the proposal approved by the Cabinet today was a Gush Emunim proposal raised several weeks ago.

[Tamir] Not true. Gush Emunin wanted to remain on the rest of the land, and argued that the judgment does not apply to the rest of the land, except for the 125 dunams. I have also heard such arguments by various Cabinet ministers. Now, the Cabinet has made a clearcut decision: That the entire court ruling will be honored. I think this is an important decision both for stabilizing the rule of law as well as for providing an appropriate solution to the subject at hand. [end recording]

[Schiffer--live] During the session, Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, his deputy, Mordekhay Tzipori, Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich and the government legal adviser demanded that it would be made clear in the decision that the settlers must move to the new site within a month and a half.

Simha Ehrlich told the prime minister: I warn you against expected games by Gush Emunim when the time for the evacuation comes. The prime minister replied: I want to make it clear that there will not be another decision. This is the decision and there is no other. Only was then was the prime minister's proposal accepted.

The work at the new site will begin after a meeting between the prime minister, the finance minister and the settlers.

The prime minister's office is now awaiting the settlers' and Gush Emunim's reaction to the decision. We moved toward them in nine out of ten steps, and yet we have not heard anything from them, a senior source at the prime minister's office told me. That's all from the prime minister's office for the moment.

Tamir on Decision

TA161540 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Nov 79 TA

[Text] Justice Minister Shmu'el Tamir says that the court ruling on Elon More has not changed the state of affairs regarding existing settlements in Judaea and Samaria. He believes that no settlement in the area is in danger of appeals to the court. However, he said, if such a danger is created--God forbid--he would recommend to the Knesset that it give precedence to retroactive legislation on the removal of these settlements from the map of Eretz Yisra'el. He emphasized that he was not speaking about Elon More. The justice minister said that this possibility, and the need to make retroactive legislation, is preferable to preventive legislation, which is connected with political damage in which no one is interested.

Speaking at the economic and maritime club in Haifa, the justice minister totally rejected the possibility that a group of people would be able to present an ultimatum to the Cabinet on the implementation of a court ruling and on legislation. If the Cabinet accepts this, it would mean that it is not the Knesset which decides on legislation, but rather a group which refuses to accept a legal ruling.

Tamir also rejected the accusations voiced against the state attorney's office saying that it had not raised the argument that the settlers' houses were not built on the appellants' lands, and said that the decision was on the seizure of the 700 dunams, on whether the IDF's seizure was legal and on whether the consideration was political rather than from a security point of view. The argument that the settlers' homes were not built on the appellants' lands is irrelevant, Mr Tamir thinks.

Gush Emunim on Decision

TA181826 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Nov 79 TA

[Text] The chairman of the Gush Emunim Secretariat says the Secretariat and Elon More representatives have not yet formulated an official reaction to the Cabinet decision. Today they met with a number of Cabinet members, including Minister Zevulun Hammer, and tomorrow they are to demand further clarifications.

Our correspondent says Gush Emunim has adopted the option of keeping silent deliberately and will most probably reveal its decision close to the zero hour of evacuation on Wednesday.

FINANCE MINISTER HOROWITZ INTRODUCES NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES

TA181628 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Nov 79 TA

[Text] Finance Minister Yiga'el Horowitz submitted a series of principles to the Cabinet today which are to be introduced into next year's budget. Our correspondent reports that these principles will cause serious cutbacks in the economy in all spheres. However, this year all service development budgets will be frozen, schools will not be built, new welfare institutions will not be opened and all activity to expand health services will cease. This move will, in fact, prevent a rise in investment.

As for projects affecting infrastructure, the finance minister proposes that these be meticulously examined, that projects be selectively abandoned. The government will cut its budget by 4 percent and this cut will also be made obligatory on all organizations supported by the national budget. Only organizations which meet the demands of the Finance Ministry and streamline their activities while cutting down on manpower will enjoy support from the state budget.

One of the main clauses in the finance minister's economic plan is the decision to freeze all payments to beneficiaries from the national insurance institute and IDF disabled. An effort will also be made to reduce the number of beneficiaries.

All credit in the economy will be linked to the Consumer Price Index while special funds will provide cheaper money to the manufacturing and export sectors. New tax laws will be introduced to encourage production and export.

On the other hand, it has been decided not to reduce construction for dwellings and to encourage economic sectors to apply to the capital market to recruit the funds they require from there.

Our correspondent adds that these proposals signify a slow down in economic activity while preventing any harm to manufacturing and export. The plans to encourage workers to move to industry hint at a total freeze of manpower in the public sector and at possible dismissals.

Today the Cabinet voted in favor of these proposals, but it was decided that ministers wishing to appeal against specific decisions would be able to do so in the Cabinet plenum. The authority to time and implement the plan has been given to the limited economic Cabinet.

BEGIN MARKS SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF AS-SADAT VISIT

TA181219 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1140 GMT 18 Nov 79 TA

[Text] Jerusalem, 18 Nov--Prime Minister Menahem Begin has sent Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat a letter to mark the second anniversary of the latter's visit to Israel on 19 November 1977.

This was sent in the form of a cable to the president. The original letter will be delivered to the president by the head of the Egyptian delegation to the autonomy talks, Ambassador Ahmad 'Abd al-Latif.

UN URGES THAT ASH-SHAK'AH NOT BE EXPELLED

TA171611 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Nov 79 TA

[Text] The UN General Assembly has called upon Israel not to expel Bassam ash-Shak'ah. The U.S. representative supported the proposal.

RELATIVE QUIET IN WEST BANK; SOME PROTESTS CONTINUE

TA180816 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 18 Nov 79 TA

[Text] The strikes in protest of the expulsion of Bassam ash-Shak'ah have been stopped in most of the Judaea towns, especially in Hebron. On the other hand, there is an almost complete strike in Nabulus and Ramallah.

Our correspondent explains that the Fatah organization, which, at the time, objected to the resignation of the municipality workers, has the most control in Judaea, whereas in towns like Nabulus and Ramallah the most influential body is the rejectionist front, which is supporting the resignations.

A sit-in strike of the members of the municipal council and public figures is about to begin in the Hebron townhall to express identification with Bassam ash-Shak'ah. The committee established in Hebron to fight for Ash-Shak'ah has decided to take protest measures all week long, including a political rally. Last night, a truck used to transport workers to Israel was set on fire. Yet, in general, quiet prevailed in the Judaea and Samaria towns, except for a few roadblocks that were set up. Studies are being conducted normally on the whole.

A strike by the workers employed in Israel was to have begun today, but this has been cancelled, since the activists who support the PLO have decided to practice moderation.

At the same time, the military government has issued a decree forbidding members of Rabbi Kahana's group from entering Hebron. They wanted to take control of the townhall in order to operate it.

COAST GUARD VESSEL CIASHES WITH TERRORISTS, TWO KILIED

TA190511 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Nov 79 TA

[Text] A naval ship [Israel] came up against a terrorist last night, which was on its way to carry out a strike against Israel. Two terrorists were killed in exchanges of fire. There were no casualties among our forces.

The IDF spokesman reported that at about 2200 last night, a coast guard ship on routine patrol west of Ahziv discovered a rubber boat carrying terrorists. An exchange of shots ensued and two terrorists were killed. As stated, our forces suffered no casualties.

Our military correspondent Roni Daniyel adds that the terrorist boat was of the Zodiac type and was equipped with a large motor. The battle lasted for several minutes and in it the terrorists fired from bazookas.

Further Details

TA190549 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 19 Nov 79 TA

[Text] And during those last words the producer just gave me the news that the IDF spokesman reports that two terrorists were taken alive during the combing carried out by the navy. The reference is to the naval ship's clash with a terrorist boat this morning [as heard]. Two terrorists were taken alive during the combing carried out by the navy after the clash in which two terrorists were killed. During that clash the terrorists fired from RPG bazookas. As stated, our forces suffered no casualties; there are two terrorists killed, two captured alive.

16 NOVEMBER DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. EMBASSY

Rafsanjani Comments on Situation

LD162014 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1145 GMT 16 Nov 79 LD

[Speech by Hashemi Rafsanjani, supervisor at the Interior Ministry, at 16 November congregational prayers at Tehran University--recorded]

[Excerpts] The issue which will occupy the major part of my speech today is that of our relations with the United States in relation to the occupation of the embassy, and the admission of a very vile, degraded, ignoble and unforgivable criminal to the United States. Fortunately, this subject has now become the main talking point throughout the world. At this moment I am talking to you, throughout the world thousands of announcers, millions of pens and millions of sessions and groups are busy discussing this event whose heroes are our brothers who are in the U.S. Embassy, in America's espionage center. Our partner in this conflict is the powerful, colonialist Government of America. This by itself is a source of pride, in addition to the outcome which will, naturally, be another source of pride. The fact that the Iranian nation, the Iranian revolution, the young students of Iran who follow the imam's policies are now engaged in battle with the great Satan of the world, the powerful and arrogant devil, and have drawn the attention of the world to this demon, this giant, and have shown that it is not as frightful as people think and that they should not be frightened of it--this by itself is a source of pride and satisfaction. Even without the results which we have not still witnessed, even what we have seen of it is a source of pride, and when we see the results we shall realize what an important action this has been. Very bluntly, I should announce and confess that what has happened has been the result of the thoughts of the people who are engaged in this affair. They made the program and they executed it, and no one and no authority can claim that he is guided or has had a share in their action, their program and their enterprise. This was their initiative and their execution and theirs is the pride.

However, the explanation that we must give to enlighten the minds of the world and also to make our nation more aware than before will occupy part of my speech today and, God willing, I shall do what is my duty. Here, there are two very important issues and sometimes these two get confused and cause confusion and misunderstanding. This question has been raised in the minds of a number of the seekers after truth and they have also asked us about it to. The question is whether the action of the students who have led the way in this action, and the question which is confronting Iran, is the question of the deposed shah, or whether it is the question of U.S. colonialism and imperialism. This is a very important question which they keep asking us. Certainly, this will be the question which will also be raised in the future and it will be asked whether the whole issue revolves around the deposed shah who has been taken to America and whether everything will be settled if he is returned and handed back to us; or whether the question is that it is only a small mole, a small fact which involves the whole existence of America and the relationship between Western imperialism and Iran. Which of the two is the real issue? What I can say for myself is that the basic issue is the second issue, but the presence of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in America is only a spark which sets it alight and which is only a manifestation of the whole issue. Our nation regards the journey of the shah and this admission of a patient to a hospital as only one small part of a great event which has been going on in our country and in our region and in the world for many decades now. This is the real source of our concern.

I hope these remarks which I am making in this official gathering--Friday congregational prayer is the most official gathering in a Muslim country--and in this exalted place, the university, which is the home of those heroes who brought about these events, and as an official person who has the right to pass judgement on the events of Iran will be regarded as an official view in the Western world and in the world media, because the Iranian nation is counting on what he is saying. Therefore, at the moment, I am particularly addressing the American people.

From a financial point of view, the Americans themselves know that if the shah decides to withdraw the money which he has taken to America it will strik a blow at America, a country with 250 million people, and all that wealth is to some extent dependent on the money which this man has stolen and has taken there to invest in the American economy. A vast sum of money the shah and his relatives and courtiers plundered is being deposited in Western countries. Now that we have discovered that the money which this fugitive robber has paid to the people around the White House and the sums which he has spent have been among the important reasons why he has been admitted to America.

From a political point of view, they deprived our country during these long years of any native institutions. We had neither proper elections, or a proper majlis, or proper newspapers, or proper radio, or proper poetry, or proper art, or a proper university, or proper schools; they had changed everything into a graveyard in which all the talents of the people were being buried.

Now that he has left the country, he has still not stopped his crimes. We have no doubt that Mohammad Reza Pahlavi had a hand in the events of Kordestan and Gonbad. We have no doubt that the agents of the former SAVAK and the agents of Mohammad Reza who are ultimately the servants of America are even now busy plotting during the local clashes, the unnecessary sit-ins, or for example the occupation of the Ministry of Labor, or the occupation of this or that factory and the closure of various productive organs which deliver a blow at the economy. He is such a type of person.

On the world scene everyone knows what he has done. He was the collaborator of Israel which is hated by all the people, which is the enemy of the Palestinian people who are our brothers and whose difficulties are our difficulties. America has given asylum to such a person and is now telling us that "we cannot hurt the humane feeling of our nation." Oh ye deceitful and unjust people!

In any case, to us the only question is not the issue of the shah. If a neutral country had given asylum to the shah it would not have created such a problem for us, just as it was not an issue when he was in Mexico. The important issue is something else, as I said. What we have suffered in Iran and the things that we blame Mohammad Reza Pahlavi for, we blame on America. Even when the shah had fled, General Heiser remained here and was running the country. He made the plans and gave orders. When this is the case, in the features of the shah we see the face of Uncle Sam, behind the shah we see all the might of America. If the Iranian nation unanimously approves and supports the occupation of this nest of espionage it is because it knows its real enemy. This is why our nation is so excited. Think about it. Would the nation do the same if the Mexican Embassy had been occupied? You are responsible. I officially announce to the American people: If you wish to remain in the world and wish to have a future, the present policy of your government is not in your interest. Don't be deceived. In the actions that you have committed during these past few days your bullying is quite evident. See if this is so or not.

Henceforth, America cannot tell the Arab nations that they have no right to use oil as a weapon, because it has used it as a weapon. When you say that you won't buy our oil, you would not have sold us oil if you had any either. Although we took the decision first, God willed that they should lose their oil and lose their prestige too and be exposed. Their propaganda tool has been taken away from them. Today, the whole world is watching this issue and learning the truth. Some people knew from the start that such claims are false, but now they have tangible evidence and the issue has been made abundantly clear.

Now the American people themselves should be fair and should judge. The people who see that such a person has escaped from their grasp now see that his former supporters, those who for years kept him in power in Iran, those who conducted a coup d'etat against Mossaddeq after the nationalization of oil and brought him back, those who on 15 Khordad [5 June of the previous year] suppressed the nation and kept the regime, those who have always supported him, and those who were the true rulers of Iran in the shah's name, they have now taken him to America. This is one issue. The other issue is that the Iranian nation suspects that America is planning a new conspiracy against Iran, although this plot is rather foolish. The American nation should know that one of the mistakes of its government is that they do not know that even if they wish to do something in Iran this can no longer be done through the shah, a person whose hands are dripping with the blood of the people, a person who has stolen the wealth of the people and has taken it abroad. The nation will no longer accept a person who has been the cause of so much misery and misfortune. The planners of the policies of the White House have made a great mistake. God knows that you are mistaken.

This is our issue. We want independence, political independence, economic independence, cultural and intellectual independence. This is something which does not accord with U.S. interests. This is something which our leader His Great Eminence Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni has repeatedly announced that we have no animosity toward foreign nations or governments. If we are the enemy of Israel, it is because it is the enemy of the Arabs. If we are forced to show enmity toward America it is because America has maintained its hostile position toward us and has not changed. In the same way that it supports Israel, it is also going to continue its imperialist policies in Iran. It is still hoping that we still continue our economic, intellectual and political dependence on America. We do not wish to have such relations. Such relations are no longer acceptable to our people. You have felt this. It is in vain that you persist. The political, economic and intellectual independence has been the rightful demand of our people. If America can have relations with us within this framework it should get itself ready for it. If it cannot have such relations--and it cannot--these attempts are also useless.

Therefore, what has happened and the events which have taken place, from the viewpoint of our people, are major steps toward the achievement of the goal which we have set for ourselves: political independence--meaning that the White House no longer makes the decisions for us and the American center of espionage will no longer determine our political fate; economic independence--meaning that we are responsible for what we produce and what we consume and what we buy and where to buy it; and independence--meaning that our nation can think the way it wants and can build its culture in the way it finds it necessary and formulate its education in the way that will guide its society toward well-being and truth.

Having these in view, what is now going on in our country not only will not worry our people, but it shows that we have found the path which will lead us toward our goal. I apologize for having taken so much of your time. May God's greetings and blessings be upon you.

Anti-U.S. Demonstration Held

NC161855 Paris AFP in English 1838 GMT 16 Nov 79 NC

[Excerpt] Tehran, Nov. 16, (AFP)--Thousands of Iranians mobilised in a huge anti-American demonstration here today in front of the U.S. Embassy in support of its seizure and the taking of hostages by Islamic students 13 days ago.

The neighbourhood was croweded with demonstrators waving enormous banners glorifying Iran's religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni or sitting listening to anti-American speeches broadcast from the building.

The demonstrators gave the clenched fist salute and shouted the slogans of 13 days before, while street sellers sold food, posters and recordings of revolutionary songs. Whole families, some with small children, were present.

Many women wearing the black chador sat in tightly packed groups alternatively debating and taking up the slogans transmitted by the embassy loudspeaker.

Bani Sadr PANA Interview

LD162010 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 16 Nov 79 LD

[Text] PANA reports that Iran's foreign affairs' supervisor Abdolhasan Bani Sadr, met this afternoon with Iran's Islamic revolution leader Imam Khomeyni, and briefed the imam on the reports related to Iran's foreign policies, recent events of the country, and the question of the American Embassy. At the end of this meeting with the imam, Bani Sadr told PANA: If UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim accepts the rightfulness of Iran's demands he can visit this country. Commenting on the rumor of his visit to New York, Bani Sadr said: The Americans have vetoed the Security Council meeting and the UN has given up its decision as well. Answering a question as to whether Iran has changed its stance on the release of the American hostages, Bani Sadr said: The Iranian Government as well as the Muslim students following Imam Khomeyni's policy have not changed their decision on the release of the American hostages.

Asked about the problems created by the economic sanctions imposed on Iran by the U.S., Bani Sadr said: No war is without loss. Bani Sadr further said: The U.S. is not living economically in a better situation than that of ours and the U.S. will suffer more losses [words indistinct]. Reporter of PANA then asked Bani Sadr [if] the foreign journalists are provided with facilities to cover the events of Iran considering the tense relations between Iran and the U.S. To this question Bani Sadr answered as such: We have permitted to all foreign journalists to come to this country and watch the e..nts of this country from the inside. Bani Sadr further said the coming of the foreign journalists to Iran will be in the interest of this country and we will arrange their meeting with the imam if they so wish.

BANI SADR:' 'WE WILL NOT KILL HOSTAGES'

LD161207 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 16 Nov 79 pp 35, 36 LD

[Interview granted by Abolhasan Bani Sadr, temporary supervisor of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to Huda al-Husayni partly in Paris and partly by telephone--date not specified]

[Text] Following the resignation of Bazargan's government he took charge of foreign affairs although reports tipped him as candidate to head a transitional government.

This man is Abolhasan Bani Sadr, who is considered the economic theoretician of the Iranian Islamic republic and one of the closest advisers to Ayatollah Khomeyni. During his presence in Paris on the evening of 30 September he took part in a French television discussion panel about "Islam in contemporary age" following the showing of the last part of the film "The Message."

AL-HAWADITH interviewed him about the situation in Iran but subsequent Iranian developments necessitated the continuation of the interview with him by telephone. In the interview, which was held by colleague Huda al-Husayni he discussed the reasons that led to the occupation of the U.S. Embassy.

Bani Sadr had held a press conference in the Iranian embassy in Paris prior to his return to Tehran. He spoke about the Iranian economy, Ayatollah Khomeyni, the sole leader of the Islamic revolution, and Ayatollah Rohani who caused an uproar over Bahrain. He described the latter as an agent of the shah.

Prior to the press conference, Iranian ambassador in Paris Amir 'Ali spoke. He said that the French people are an ideal example for the Iranian people and expressed thanks for President Giscard d'Estaing for receiving him. He then launched an attack on Shahpur Bakhtiar describing him as a "traitor." He then said: "How can you accuse us of being opposed to criticism. Do you not see how we allow a traitor like Bakhtiar to express his views with complete freedom?"

When the journalists showed surprise at perceiving that the ambassador had forgotten that he is in Paris and not in Tehran, Bani Sadr intervened to say: "If Bakhtiar returns to Iran, I can assure him with you as witnesses that he can express his views with total freedom."

In his interview with AL-HAWADITH, Bani Sadr criticized Bazargan's government, particularly its foreign policy. Which goes to show that he has replaced Ebrahim Yazdi in shaping a new foreign policy. The dialog began about his being a candidate for the leadership of the government.

AL-HAWADITH: You are tipped as a candidate to head the government.

Bani Sadr: I did not nominate myself. This is up to the Council of Experts which, since Bazargan's government resigned, has not yet decided the form of the new government or the tasks it is required to achieve.

AL-HAWADITH: Why did the occupation of the U.S. Embassy come after the meeting between Prime Minister Bazargan and President Carter's National Security Adviser Brzezinsky and not after the shah's admission to an American hospital?

Bani Sadr: The occupation of the embassy was in order to demonstrate the Iranian people's will, first with regard to their opposition to the shah's entering the United States and, second, to make their voice heard in the world--that they cannot accept U.S. interference in our daily Iranian life through political conspiracies and stirring up minorities on the Iranian borders.

The Iranian people believed that at his meeting with Brzezinski, Bazargan had directly expressed Iran's desire to bring the shah back to Iran in order to try him for his crimes and that Bazargan had achieved some result. But what Bazargan actually proposed was very far from this issue.

AL-HAWADITH: Did not Bazargan consult Khomeyni over the principle of meeting with Brzezinski?

Bani Sadr: No, never. Moreover, the imam did not accept Bazargan's resignation because he had met with Brzezinski but because the people realized that their government is not doing what is asked of it.

AL-HAWADITH: Why did Khomeyni refuse to receive the U.S. emissaries?

Bani Sadr: The imam said: "What is the issue the U.S. delegation wants to discuss with me? If it wants to discuss the question of the shah, we want him back and we refuse to discuss this subject." Khomeyni does not need discussion because he does not change his mind.

AL-HAWADITH: If the United States expels the shah from its territories, will the problem end?

Bani Sadr: First, the United States wants to show the world that it is playing a role in this matter, something which we reject on our part. Therefore, it is trying to send delegations and seek mediation. If the United States expels the shah and declares publicy that it has done so according to the Iranian revolution's desire, then the matter will take a different turn, the course of which I do not know as yet.

AL-HAWADITH: Are you personally in favor of occupying embassies?

Bani Sadr: No, I am against this principle.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the occupation of the American Embassy?

Bani Sadr: They did not consult me on the matter. Moreover, this action was not taken by an organized group of a single political party, and therefore we cannot evaluate it as we would evaluate the successful hijacking of a plane. What happened in Tehran is the result of the Iranian people's spontaneous reaction. The people have found that the long-waited moment has come and that they will not allow the United States, which considers itself a superpower, to protect the reactionaries and enemies of the revolution and throw all its weight behind them.

AL-HAWADITH: Will Khomeyni receive the Palestinian delegation?

Bani Sadr: We always receive the Palestinians.

Question: But the delegation has specially come to secure the release of hostages?

Bani Sadr: A special delegation to free the hostages? I have not heard of this. In any case if a Palestinian delegation comes there is no objection to receiving it. But will the delegation come to discuss with us matters that concern us?

AL-HAWADITH: If the United States refuses to extradite the shah or expel him from its territories will you kill the hostages?

Bani Sadr: No, we will not kill them. The Revolution Council is in constant meeting in order to discuss developments of the situation and find a way out that would preserve Iran's genuine independence.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that Bazargan was a victim of this problem?

Bani Sadr: No. For 2 weeks Bazargan had been insisting on resigning and asking for authority to form a new government.

AL-HAWADITH: Certain diplomatic circles say that the supreme authority in Iran wants to keep Foreign Minister Ebrahim Yazdi and Defense Minister Mustafa Chamran away from any government that may be formed, the first because of his sympathy with the United States and the second because of his being Syria's man? Is this true?

Bani Sadr: Syria's man in Iran? There is no meaning to the existence of such a person. Also, I do not think that Dr Yazdi is with the United States. I do not think so.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you agree with him?

Bani Sadr: This is a different question. No, I do not agree with him on most matters.

AL-HAWADITH: In the West there is talk about the possibility of the United States preparing a military coup d'etat in Iran.

Bani Sadr: Nonsense, nonsense, nonsense.

AL-HAWADITH: Why did you recently agree to a dialog with the Kurds?

Bani Sadr: The dialog with the Kurds has never stopped. Also, about which Kurds are you asking? There are several groups of Kurds. There are several Kurdish political groupings active in Kurdistan. The dialog with the Kurds has not stopped so the Iranian Kurdistan area will remain calm.

AL-HAWADITH: Have you imposed specific conditions?

Bani Sadr: Our conditions are that they should come down from the mountains to which they fled, to live in Kurdish towns andto stop conspiring.

AL-HAWADITH: What are the conspiracies of which you accuse the Kurds of hatching?

Bani Sadr: Military conspiracies in cooperation with abroad. The result of such conspiratorial methods would be the destruction of the whole country.

On the other hand we ask them to take part in the elections which the people will decide and what the people chooses is none of our business.

AL-HAWADITH: You ask them to participate [in the elections] after you have expelled Dr Abdolrahman Qasimlu from the Iranian Council of Experts?

Bani Sadr: We did not expel him. He did not show up.

AL-HAWADITH: How will you solve the problems of minorities in Iran?

Bani Sadr: By giving them the rights that others enjoy. This did not exist in the past. At present we gave the same rights to everybody. In one of our constitutional provisions we decided to distribute the budget appropriations for development equally among all the Iranian regions.

AL-HAWADITH: Why did you dismiss Hasan Nazih from the chairmanship of the oil company, what were the reasons?

Bani Sadr: Hasan Nazih was a lawyer; he knows nothing about oil. For this reason his management of the company was very bad, particularly since the oil industry is the industry on which our economy is based. For this reason we sent a delegate to monitor and supervise the industry and, according to the report he submitted to us, we found out that the situation was very bad and getting worse under Nazih's management. These are the reasons for the expulsion of Dr Hasan Nazih.

AL-HAWADITH: You said that Iran needs 20 years in order to restore its economic stability. How long can the Iranian people wait?

Bani Sadr: Was it not the people who staged the glorious Iranian revolution? These people, who sacrificed the lives of their children, will not find it much to endure a sacrifice of a different kind and to take part in saving the country from economic collapse.

AL-HAWADITH: But hardly 9 months have passed since the revolution and the voices of the unemployed are again being heard grumbling.

Bani Sadr: The whole people are unemployed and not just a few million.

AL-HAWADITH: Are you unemployed?

Bani-Sadr: Certainly.

AL-HAWADITH: We heard that Iran will send 10,000 volunteers to southern Lebanon.

Bani Sadr: I have not heard of this report. However, if there are Iranians who are ready to go and take part in defending southern Lebanon I would encourage them.

AL-HAWADITH: To fight whom?

Bani Sadr: Enemies of the Palestinians--Israel.

AL-HAWADITH: It has been said that Ayatollah Khomeyni broke off diplomatic relations with Egypt because of Palestinian pressures.

Bani Sadr: Is this a joke? No, this absolutely did not happen. We broke off relations because we reject the sort of insult to which As-Sadat submitted us, and not because the Palestinians can influence us or have brought pressure to bear on us.

AL-HAWADITH: How do you view the situation in Afghanistan?

Bani Sadr: There is a deep rift in Afghanistan. There is a regime that the Soviet Union supports while the people do not want this regime nor sympathize with it. Therefore, we justify this people's revolt against the existing regime.

AL-HAWADITH: Does Iran help the Muslim rebels in Afghanistan?

Bani Sadr: Unfortunately not. The reason is that the foreign policy that our government adopts is ineffective; indeeed it is weak and nonexistent.

In my opinion we must help the Afghan people. For what reasons are the Russians helping the Afghan officials? I believe that we must help the Afghan people precisely because of this.

AL-HAWADITH: You are against the Soviet Union and, at the same time, against the United States.

Bani Sadr: We are not against anybody; we are with ourselves. For this reason some people interpret our insistence on independence as a criminal action against the Russians and the Americans.

AL-HAWADITH: Once you had a prolonged dialog with the Iranian left. What results did you achieve?

Bani Sadr: We are the left and there is no leftist group in Iran other than ourselves. The others represent the right. In any case, we have held dialogs and discussions so as to enable all the Iranians to participate in the development tasks we intend to carry out in independent Iran.

ARAB MINISTERS: FREEZING ASSETS IS 'SERIOUS PRECEDENT'

LD190955 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Nov pp 1-2 LD

[Wariq Ramadan report]

[Excerpts] Tunis--Some Arab foreign ministers have expressed their countries' concern over the U.S. decision to freeze the Iranian assets deposited in American banks--a matter which figured prominently during the ministers' peripheral bilateral or multilateral meetings [during Arab summit conference here]. A minister of one of the Gulf states told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT:

"The oil countries will think twice in the future before deciding to deposit their funds in American banks because this is a very serious precedent as far as the United States and its foreign dealings are concerned."

It has been observed that the greater part of the foreign ministers' interest during their discussions centered on the situation in Iran, the possibilities of military intervention and the repercussions of the freezing of the assets.

It has also been learned that the foreign ministers conference yesterday rejected a proposal by the Libyan delegation calling for the adoption of Arab economic and diplomatic retaliatory measures against the United States. All the Arab states rejected this proposal, including Iraq which had earlier supported it but later voted against it.

Libyan Foreign Minister 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki made a statement to ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in which he described the American measures as "a serious precedent in international relations," and that the freezing of assets falls under the category of "international terrorism carried out by a major power."

17 NOVEMBER DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. EMBASSY

Bani Sadr on Frozen Assets

LD170843 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Announcement issued by the supervisor of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs--read by announcer]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Following the changes which have come about in relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the American Government, it was suspected that after Iran's announcement about the possibility of withdrawing its assets from America, Carter, the American President, would order Iranian assets in the American banks and their branches in foreign countries to be frozen. We wish to inform the public that due to the precautionary measures which were taken after the revolution, only a small part of Iran's foreign reserves, only about nine percent of the total, is deposited in America and that was kept there in order to pay Iran's current and urgent expenses. Iran's assets in American banks outside that country have been speedily reduced recently. However, it is still not very clear to Iran to what extent America can decide about the assets which are deposited in American banks outside that country and which are not subject to American regulations. This issue is being carefully studied by Iranian Government sources inside and outside the country and its results will be announced soon.

An issue of such importance will have international repercussions and some Arab governments have openly expressed their worries concerning this action taken by America and America will lose more as the result of this decision. With the steps taken immediately for the oil payments and other Iranian earnings abroad, there is no worry concerning the shortage of foreign earnings. Iran's foreign earnings can cover all legal, foreign payments of the country both on an individual and governmental basis. Arrangements will be made with all Iranian banks so that payments to all individuals, whether patients, students or other people staying abroad, can be paid without any delay so that they may not face any difficulty. As the monetary and exchange issues are extremely sensitive we strongly request all the compatriots as well as the officials of the news media not to express an opinion or to spread any news through baseless rumors without having first discussed their views with government officials.

Contrary to the rumors which have been spread, recent events have not had the slightest effect upon the condition of the banks in the country and the banks are fully prepared to satisfy all the financial needs of their customers. The Bank Markazi [central bank] of Iran assures that the deposits of individuals in the banks are not being threatened now or in the future and that these deposits enjoy full security.

It is obvious that if any of the nationalized banks are temporarily facing any difficulties as regards cash, the Bank Markazi of Iran will be ready as usual to provide them with the necessary facilities.

[Signed] The supervisor of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, Abolhasan Bani Sadr.

Blacks, Women Ordered Released

LD171017 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Decree issued 17 November by Imam Khomeyni, addressed to Hojjat ol-Eslam Mosavi Kho'ini--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Mosavi Kho'ini and the respected brothers and sisters, students stationed in the center of espionage: The center of espionage and conspiracy called the American Embassy and those people who hatched plots against our Islamic movement in that place do not enjoy international diplomatic respect.

The extensive threats and propaganda of the American Government are not of the slightest significance to our nation; nor is their military threat wise, nor is their economic embargo significant. Carter is making one mistake and that is that he thinks that all governments are standing with their eyes closed to do his bidding. This great mistake will also soon be made clear to him, and its first signs can already be seen. The Iranian nation has arisen so that these dens of espionage will not be able to continue their shameful deeds. The den of espionage and those professional spies will remain as they are until Mohammad Reza Pahlavi is returned to be tried and until he has returned all that he has plundered. However, because Islam has a special respect for women and blacks who have spent ages under American pressure and tyranny and who might have come to Iran under pressure, therefore, we will mitigate their cases if it is proved that they have not committed acts of espionage.

Dear students, please hand over the blacks and the women, if it is proven that they did not spy, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs so that they may be immediately expelled from Iran. The noble Iranian nation will not give permission for the release of the rest of them. Therefore, the rest of them will be under arrest until the American Government acts according to the wish of the nation. Greeting be upon you.

[signed] Ruhollah Mosavi Khomeyni, 17 November 1979.

Bani Sadr on Arab's Position

LD171412 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Mr Abolhasan Bani Sadr, supervisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this morning received the ambassadors of the Arab countries at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In this meeting, the supervisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs discussed with the ambassadors of the Arab countries the discussions which had taken place at the Tunis conference and other topics. The supervisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today addressed a message to the Arab nation:

The majority of the foreign ministers of the Arab governments have sided with America. If the American Government believes that right is on its side in the issue of the occupation of its embassy, which is due to accepting the former shah into America, it may not cause great surprise; but the decision of the majority of foreign ministers of the governments who rule over you, and in your name, is very strange.

Even if we believe that all the right is on the side of America, the question still arises of why these ministers have not followed the judgement of [the prophet] Solomon--may God's peace be upon him--as stated in the Koran and why have they not asked for an explanation from the Iranian Government and why have they not regarded themselves duty-bound to be properly informed about the truth of the matter.

Dear Muslim brothers, do you believe that a nation which enjoys Islamic culture, and which is also passing through the zenith of revolutionary maturity, would occupy an embassy and arrest its officials for having given refuge to a deposed and sick shah? Why and how are they taking your oil and ours? How do they impose corruption and misery upon us? How do they hold the oil money in their own hands? How do they make Israel dominate the land of the Muslims? How do they impose poverty, backwardness and tyrannical regimes upon us? Do we not know the answers to these questions? Do we not feel with our skin and blood the truth of the condition which they have imposed upon us? Are they not killing our Arab brothers in Palestine and Lebanon and everywhere every day? Has America, which gives napalm bombs and worse to Israel to pour down upon the tents and slums of our Palestinian brothers now become such a lover of humanity that they have to cure the deposed shah in America?

America is shedding blood from the body of Islam from Gibraltar to the Far East, but the majority of the foreign ministers did not think to regard the Islamic revolution of Iran as suitable opportunity for coming together and finding the path of the salvation of the Islamic nation in unison. The majority of your foreign ministers did not even take the trouble to condemn the death of hundreds of thousands of Arab, Iranian and other Muslim people, and in their resolution they did not ask America why it has made that country into a place of refuge for traitorous and corrupt criminals.

Arab brothers, at the same time that they are shedding the blood of our generation, they are also plundering the blood of our economic life, namely, our oil. The Islamic revolution of Iran has given rise to a historical opportunity so that together we can adopt a correct and decisive policy for the economic progress and the role of oil in our economy. The two American economic decisions should not have left for you any room for doubt that economic threats and bondage will continue as long as the true decision regarding production of oil and the puny price that they pay for it is still in America's hands. America has armed Israel to the teeth so that it can maintain control over oil and its puny price. America has prepared a special force so that it can occupy the oil-producing regions anytime it finds it necessary. But where is our strength?

Should we not ask those who decide your oil and foreign policies about the present and future fate of us Muslims when the control over oil and the revenues from oil and what we earn is in the hands of the dominant powers, and when we are not even entitled to ask for the extradition of a great criminal of our time? Arab brothers, you and we have been known from the earliest days for the priceless tradition of hospitality. Our noble Prophet and his revered disciples showed mercy to the infidels during battle and were grieved when they saw that someone faced death while fighting in the battle between falsehood and truth. In their pure hearts there was nothing but the love of mankind. Now, how is it possible for a Muslim nation to break this tradition?

The truth is that the American Embassy was the true center governing the Iranian people, and our nation regarded the admission of the shah to America as an insult and a humiliation to a nation and its great revolution. Now that the American Government's unwise acts have created the situation we are facing it is up to us and to you to arise and stand up to them.

Once again, a great opportunity has come about, an opportunity which we can use to fundamentally change our relations with the oppressors of the age. What we want is not only the extradition of a sick criminal, but the return of our right to decide our own destiny. If we ask for this right together we will certainly become successful and will regain this right.

Some tyrannical heads of state who have accepted America's domination over themselves and wish to force it upon the Arab and even all Muslim nations have claimed that the Iranian nation wishes to destroy American influence so that it can replace it with the Russian influence, and that Iran is practically in the hands of Marxist elements who are dependent on another superpower. Have they not received any guidance from the teachings of the Koran and do they not know that the priceless tradition which the Koran has founded teaches the Islamic nation not to make itself a toy in the hands of rival powers? Is it not the teaching of Koran that by dependence upon God we will become united and make ourselves independent of foreign powers?

Muslim brothers, Mr Anwar as-Sadat does not wish to rely upon the unity of the Arab and Muslim nation. This is why he is forced to rely upon this or that superpower; and castigates the leader of our Islamic revolution and insults our revolutionary nation. We call you to the great unity and tell you not to be deceived, for God's promise will be fulfilled. If we are united:

1. Control over our governments will pass to the hands of our own nations and we will become independent.

2. We shall put an end to the policy of aggression and threats which America follows both directly and, especially, through Israel; and we shall free Palestine and all the Muslim lands.

3. Control over oil and our economy will be in our own hands.

4. We will regain our culture, and Islam will regain its brilliance.

5. The world order will be fundamentally transformed and all the oppressed people of the world will achieve freedom, hope and well-being.

6. The oppressive nations will also get our of their shell of oppression and they, too, will be set free.

Brothers, let us arise and make use of this historic opportunity.

Contact With U.S. Denied

LD171125 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention to a report which I have just received. Right now Mr Bani Sadr, provisional supervisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has contacted the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran to deny the REUTER report on U.S. officials' contact with him. He said: This is another lie which the Western news agencies have fabricated.

Official Cited on Freeze

LD171156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Text] According to a UPI report, the U.S. Government has informed American banks that they can transfer Iranian funds from their foreign branches to the United States. This is an attempt to prevent the banks from ignoring Carter's orders about freezing Iran's assets in America. About two-thirds of the $6 billion of Iran's frozen assets are kept in the foreign branches of the major American banks.

The U.S. deputy secretary of the treasury has stated: Iran can receive export items which it had previously purchased, such as foodstuffs, medicine and clothing. It also can return commercial planes which are at American airports. This official, who on Carter's orders has been entrusted with the task of supervising the attempt of the American Government to freeze Iran's assets, said: The permission for banks to transfer Iranian funds from foreign branches of the banks to the United States was issued so that the countries where the branches of the banks are located will not be able to ignore Carter's order to freeze the assets.

Washington POST Cited

LD171320 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Text] The American newspaper, the Washington POST, has written: Bani Sadr, supervisor of the Foreign Ministry, has announced that the Iranian Government will no longer accept dollars in its transactions, stressing that if other OPEC members support Iran's decision, the dollar is finished.

The Washington POST has called this decision, as cited by the supervisor of the Foreign Ministry, Iran's reaction to the U.S. boycott of Iranian oil.

Message to Mexico

LD171438 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Mauncheh Kazemi, the charge d'affaires of the Iranian Embassy in Mexico, has expressed the hope that Mexico will close its doors to the deposed shah of Iran. He said that the Iranian people are hopeful that Mexico will not issue a new visa for the deposed shah of Iran. In a press conference last Thursday, the charge d'affaires of the Iranian Embassy in Mexico announced: The Iranian regime wants the deposed shah's assets all over the world to be confiscated.

Commentary on Freeze, Shah

LD171137 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Text] The French news agency has written in a commentary that the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunisia described the U.S. decision to freeze Iranian assets in the United States as a dangerous act in international relations.

There are also continuous reports concerning the departure of the deposed shah from the United States. According to an AL-AKHBAR report published in Cairo, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi will go to Egypt as soon as his doctors will permit it.

Deportation of Iranians Reported

LD171442 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Text] U.S. immigration authorities interviewed about 4,000 Iranian students last week and found about 10 percent of them liable for deportation.

The spokesman of the immigration service said that about 400 students may be deported, because they have either been expelled from school or they are working without permits. Some go to college on a part-time basis, about 2,500 of them were able to prove that they went to school on a full-time basis and the position of the rest is not clear. Some 60 students voluntarily accepted deportation.

Robert Byrd, the Senate Democratic leader, said that the Iranian demonstrators are making his blood boil, and that he doesn't blame the Americans who throw stones and eggs.

Objections have been raised to Carter's orders on the investigation of the visas of 50,000 Iranians in America.

British Freeze of Assets

LD171444 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Text] According to AP, the British Government has announced that it does not intend to freeze Iranian assets in that country. The spokesman for the British Foreign Office was commenting on the remarks of an Arab minister in Tunisia that Britain, the FRG, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg have considered freezing Iranian assets.

Student Statement No 37

LD171116 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1053 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Statement No 37 issued by the student followers of the imam's policy stationed in the "den of American espionage"--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to the valiant Iranian nation. As we have always declared in our announcements, we are only a drop in the tumultuous ocean of the Muslim community and in this great divine movement which has come into being among the Muslim nation and our only endeavor is to be able to remain steadfast in following the illustrious leader of this revolution.

This is why we have always said and will say that any decision concerning the hostages and also this center of espionage and conspiracy rests with the nation, which finds expression in the utterances of the imam. Therefore, following the orders of the great leader of the revolution, Imam Khomeyni, about releasing the women and the blacks who are among the hostages and whose acts of espionage have not been proved, we have acted immediately and according to the orders of the imam those individuals whose acts of espionage have not been proved will be handed over to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs so that they may be expelled from the country. At the same time, we shall announce the message of honor, freedom, independence and humanity of you dear nation, which is the message of Islam, through them to the people of the world, especially American women and blacks.

The rest of the hostages and the premises of the center of espionage, as ordered by the imam, will be at the disposal of you, valiant nation, until the return of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and the return of all that he has plundered from this nation.

[Signed] The Muslim student followers of the imam's policy.

PLO Envoy Meets Khomeyni

NC171213 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Nov 79 NC

[Text] Palestinian sources in Beirut said today that Ghazi al-Husayni, envoy of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, met yesterday in Iran with Ayatollah Khomeyni and handed him a message on the possibility of a U.S. military intervention in Iran to obtain the release of the hostages held at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

PLO Envoy Meets Bani Sadr

JN171722 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 17 Nov 79 JN

[Text] PLO representative in Tehran Hani al-Hasan met with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Abolhasan Bani Sadr. They discussed the latest developments in the U.S. Embassy situation and the imperialist conspiracy, which is becoming fiercer against Iran.

Brother Hani al-Hasan handed Dr Bani Sadr the PLO's statement in solidarity with the Iranian revolution and the Palestinian military council's decision to support the Iranian revolution and to put the Palestinian revolution's capability at the disposal of the Iranian people under the leadership of Imam Ayatollah Khomeyni in confronting the imperialist conspiracy.

He also met with Dr Hojjat Ol-Eslam 'Ali (Tansha'i) at the Revolution Council residence. They reviewed the current situation.

Khomeyni's Son To Accompany Hostages

LD171728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Text] The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran today told the central news bureau that Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, supervisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, today in a letter asked Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni to accompany the women and black hostages who are to be released to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The test of the letter written by the supervisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran follows:

Our Mojahed brother, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, that fighting and intellectual and steadfast brother, is invited to accompany the women and black hostages of the former American Embassy, who are to leave Iran, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] The supervisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abolhasan Bani-Sadr.

Bani Sadr on U.S. Relations

LD171909 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Dr Abolhasan Bani Sadr, the supervisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said today in an interview with reporters of Arab papers:

Our revolution is a part of the revolution of the Muslim nation; it is an attempt (?to become aware) and to prepare for total freedom from the bondage that our people have suffered for centuries.

At the beginning of the interview Bani Sadr said: Since I have taken charge of Iran's foreign policies, I have not neglected the common struggle, expecially that which concerns the Arab nation, in spite of the crisis in U.S.-Iranian relations which has taken up an important part of this ministry's activities. I have taken basic steps in this struggle: First, the resumption of diplomatic relations with Libya; and second, the banning of transactions with commercial and industrial firms which deal with Israel.

We also had useful talks on close ties, cooperation and harmony in this mutual struggle, in a meeting with the ambassadors of Arab countries.

Asked about the reaction of the Arab countries to Iran's decision on replacing the dollar as the currency for oil purchases, Bani Sadr said: I understand that Libya has proposed that the Arab countries should follow our example and withdraw their money from American banks. We expect that the Arab nations will take advantage of this historic opportunity and rise together in a mutual attempt to free all Muslim countries from U.S. economic sovereignty, to make the severence of the bonds of this sovereignty a prelude to the liberation of the Muslim nations from the cancer of Israel.

Asked whether Iran would break off diplomatic relations with the United States, Bani Sadr said: What we ought to break is America's domination over Iran and all other Islamic countries. As for our diplomatic relations, I must point out that we obviously have no desire to break off our relations with the American people; we would like to have good relations with them. Naturally, we have ended America's political domination; as for the traces of this domination that remain, we will wipe them out as well.

He said: With regard to the U.S. Embassy in Iran and the Iranian Embassy in the United States, this is an issue of which you are all aware. The (?basis) of our relations has been removed; we are not engaged in any negotiations with U.S. diplomatic representatives. The United States must admit to the legitimacy of the Iranian Government's demand concerning the extradition of the shah, and tell the American people the truth. The fact is that Kissinger and Rockefeller have turned the United States into a fortress for international criminals.

Asked what preemptive measures have been adopted by Iran against an American military invasion or a similar military action, such as an invasion of Iran by Iraq, Bani Sadr said: First off all, the representatives of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti governments have strongly denied any intention on the part of Iraq to attack the Iranian territory. Furthermore, Kuwait's representative has also denied a report on the landing of American paratroopers in that country and their readiness to launch an attack on Iran. Such (?convulsive) measures can only take place when an entire nation is not acting in defense of its independence. Right now our entire nation is on a mobilization footing, having already taken all the necessary contingency measures to prepare for all deprivations and to prepare for battle against any aggressor.

In response to a question about Iran's relations with the Persian Gulf littoral states in the light of U.S. operations in these countries aimed at military actions, Bani Sadr said: Should these states fail to adhere to their grave responsibilities to a Muslim nation; should they allow their countries to be used as a base for possible invasions by the United States, contrary to the wishes of their Muslim peoples and the legitimacy of our case in wishing to live in freedom and independence, then it is quite obvious that they must accept the consequences of such actions. We believe such consequences will be brought about by their own Muslim nations; for the U.S. aggressions are not eternal, whereas our life and common cultures are. Therefore, the peoples of these countries will not approve of living in enmity with us so that the United States may plunder our resources.

Asked about Iraq and its exploitation of oil products along its common borders with Iran, and whether such operations might affect Iran's oilfields, Bani Sadr said: Today in our meeting with Arab ambassadors we discussed issues concerning Iran and Iraq. In such cases, the government which seeks its own interests at the expense of another should be told that it will not be able to benefit by such actions. It is in our interest to consider all God-given gifts as resources of the Islamic nations and to use them to advance the goals of Muslim nations. In this case, too, we will not sacrifice our rights.

According to the central news bureau, the Foreign Ministry spokesman announced today that the Iraqi ambassador to Iran has gone to the Foreign Ministry and has strongly denied the report on Iraq's readiness to invade Iranian territory. The spokesman also pointed out that the Kuwaiti ambassador to Iran has strongly denied U.S. military deployment in Kuwait; this was pointed out during a meeting between the ambassador and Foreign Ministry Supervisor Bani Sadr.

Mo'infar on Oil Exports

LD171852 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Text] 'Ali Akbar Mo'infar, in an interview, has said: We will not have any difficulties in providing for the country's expenses, since at present our oil sales to non-American companies are normal, and we are receiving payment for them. He said: Even with the stoppage of oil exports to the United States, and with the lower rates of oil production and exports, in view of the fact that at present the price we receive for our oil is much higher than the price we used to get from American oil companies, we will have enough money.

The minister of oil said: During the first 6 months of the current year, a total of 470 billion rials were paid to the treasury by the oil company, and on average it came to less than 80 billion rials per month. He added: During the month of Mehr [23 September-22 October] and the first 20 days of the month of Aban [23 October-21 November], a total of about 280 billion rials were paid into the country's treasury, which amounted to 180 billion rials on average per month. Mo'infar added: We hope that we will be able to pay the sums forecast for oil income for this year into the country's treasury.

In another part of his speech, the minister of oil said: In order to prevent world imperialism from forcing other oil-producing countries to increase their exports, we announced to the world and to OPEC that we will maintain our levels of production and exports, and that the ministry of oil is prepared to export the same amount of oil as before. The Minister of Oil said: We have never committed ourselves to following the will of foreigners as to our levels of oil exports, rather we will export the amount which we consider suitable. In fact, our oil policy in the future should be along the lines of exporting oil products rather than crude oil.

Mo'infar said: The issue of accepting oil payments in dollar or other foreign exchange is under consideration, and we might take any action regarding this matter, but we have not issued any specific orders to the oil company in this respect. At the end of his speech regarding the sabotage of oil pipelines, Mo'infar said: At 2000 to 2100 last night a 12 inch oil pipeline in the region of Dehloran and Chashmeh-Yekhuri, about 10 km away from the production unit, was blown up by counterrevolutionary elements. Immediately, the honest and diligent workers of the oil company started repair operations, and within the next 2 or 3 days this oil pipeline will be ready to use.

Council Denounces 'Counterrevolutionary' Actions

LD172236 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2055 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

["Text" of 17 November statement issued by the Revolution Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. The day the Islamic revolution of Iran achieved the first stage of its victory and the deprived and revolutionary masses of Iran toppled the filthy criminal and subservient Pahlavi regime and appointed the provisional revolution government, it was obvious that foreign colonialism and its filthy agents would not surrender to this revolution easily and would attempt any conspiracy and disturbance in order to weaken the revolution of Iran and bring about its fall. This has been common practice in the history of revolutions and anti-colonialist struggles of deprived masses of the world. The Chile experience--conspiracies and provocations to weaken the government of Salvador Allende--is before our eyes.

Today, world imperialism and its internal subservient elements clothed in the attire of both the left and right, are experimenting along the same lines in Iran. The revolution that in less than 6 months from coming to power has nationalized and confiscated hundreds of private companies which were committed to foreigners and has more than doubled salaries and welfare provisions of the working classes, has been accused of capitalism. Following this, factories are shut down by uncalled for strikes or unwarranted sit-ins, though most of these establishments enjoy government supervision or are partly or wholely owned by the government. The level of production is brought down to unprecedented lows, even though nationalized or governmental or even private factories have called back to work those who had been dismissed or had resigned. Unemployment among our youth, which is the result of incorrect subservient policies of the former regime and the impossibility of any kind of investment during the first few months of the revolution, has been used as a pretext for threats and repeated sit-ins, thus pushing the employed workers toward unemployment.

The interesting thing is that precisely during the 2 weeks since the revolutionary action taken by the Iranian nation in occupying the U.S. Embassy--when the Iranian nation, in following the leadership of its esteemed leader, demonstrated its decisive and uncompromising Islamic revolution to the world, attracted the support and confirmation of the great masses of the nation and the attention of the oppressed people of the world; when this nation and country are in the process of becoming the hope of anticolonial and liberation movements in the world--these sit-ins, strikes, obstructions and pseudo-leftist taking of hostages, as well as the reduction or stoppage of national production, are reaching new heights.

Who do those groups, individuals and elements who incite factory workers and civil servants to such actions serve? Under the present circumstances, when our nation more than ever needs preparedness and mobilization and unity against provocations and economic blockade, when the nation needs increasing domestic production in order to meet its requirements, reduction of production serves no other purpose but exerting pressure on the low-income groups, weakening the revolution's economy, increasing unemployment, and preparing grounds for treacherous actions by the counterrevolutionaries and reestablishment of colonial relations.

If the logic and power of their political and social anaysis has failed them, they can at least bear in mind the experiences of [word indistinct] and Chile. These people, knowingly or unwittingly, are serving colonialism, thus widening the gap separating the classes and making the national abyss deeper.

Following studies and extensive investigations, the Revolution Council has learned that a decisive majority of hard working, productive and honest workers are unhappy about these provocations, they abhore them.

The revolutionary and Muslim masses of Iran, in following their learned leader and imam, along with all the authorities and servants, are alertly prepared to overcome any foreign pressure and economic pressure imposed on them from abroad, and will remain so. However, such internal, provocative disruptions will not be tolerated. The masses expect the dear and hard working workers not only to ignore such provocations, but to identify those responsible and cast them out, thus protecting the productive as well as national enterprises against these traitors to the revolution.

Effective today, the Revolution Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran will consider any sit-in, taking of hostages and unwarranted strikes to be counterrevolutionary and will react to them.

Rafsanjani Comment on Situation

LD172254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2125 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, the supervisor of the Interior Ministry, today elaborated his views regarding the current affairs of the country. Answering a question on whether the Interior Ministry will be run by councils or not, he said: This issue is not being considered as such, but views on how the people can cooperate with us will be taken into consideration.

About the referendum on the constitution, the elections for the National Consultative Assembly and the elections for the presidency, Rafsanjani said: We intend to do all these quickly. Because there is a deadline to be met, we will try to finalise them within the next 3 months. He added: In order to glorify the memory of those martyred on 5 June, we have decided to hold the referendum on 2 December. [sentence as heard]

About the regulations for the elections for the city councils of the six largest cities, Rafsanfani said: The regulations concerning the duties and powers of the councils will be issued once the Revolution Council has approved them and at the appropriate time.

About the confrontation between Iran and America and the most likely outcome, Rafsanjani said: I view this confrontation as a holy struggle. Naturally, if we want to be independent, confrontation with the U.S. Government is inevitable, and since we believe that every [word indistinct] struggler will eventually be victorious, we have complete faith in our victory and we do not have any worries as to where it will all end.

About the likelihood of some of the members of the Revolution Council being nominated for the presidency, Rafsanjani said: We have not given this matter any thought as yet, but those who are more popular will naturally have a chance to be nominated for presidency.

18 NOVEMBER DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. EMBASSY

Student Statement on Release

LD180208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0142 GMT 18 Nov 79 LD

[Message dated 18 November from the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy to brother Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Struggling brother Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni: Since the great leader of the revolution, Imam Khomeyni, has ordered that the women and blacks whose espionage has not been established be released from among the hostages of the espionage Embassy of the United States, Your Eminance is hereby requested to accompany them, upon their release, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and from there to the airport so that they may be expelled from the territory of our beloved country.

[signed] The Muslim student followers of the imam's policy.

Iranian Warship Movements

NC180653 Paris AFP in English 0642 GMT 18 Nov 79 NC

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 18 (AFP)--Forty Iranian warships were heading for the Indian Ocean and the gulf, the Kuwait daily paper AL-WATAN said today.

The paper, citing Dubai Government sources, said the Iranian move was in response to Washington's decision to reinforce U.S. naval presence in the Indian Ocean zone.

Other gulf states had been told in advance of Iran's decision, the paper added.

More on Bani Sadr Interview

LD181500 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Dr Abolhasan Bani Sadr, supervisor of the Foreign Ministry, was interviewed by some Arab press correspondents. We carried parts of his interview earlier. We now draw your attention to another part of his interview.

Bani Sadr was asked: The sultan of Oman has said that Arab countries have agreed to finance the necessary military expenses for Oman to protect the Strait of Hormuz. What do you think about this?

Bani Sadr said: If what is reported is correct, then this gentleman, the sultan, will be doing what he is told to do; this is why they have kept him there--likewise, the troop deployments by the former shah. At any rate, neither we nor any other country in the region would agree to hand over control, and that of the Strait of Hormuz, to a sultan who rules there thanks to others.

In reply to a question about the future relations between Iran and the countries of the region, considering that Saudi Arabia and Qatar have increased their oil production to make up for the fall in the production of Iranian oil and that Bahrain has agreed to receive U.S. paratroopers, Bani Sadr said: You should find the answer in your own question, for we must wait and see how they view their future relations with Iran. Do they think that time does not move on and the peoples of these lands are not going to ask their governments at a future time why they ruled as they did? If Saudi Arabia and Qatar, as reported, have increased their oil production, this will not worry us, for we were not really very eager to sell oil to America. However, the point is, why should the people of Saudi Arabia not ask their government, considering the limited population of Saudi Arabia, what need is there for it to sell nearly 9.5 million barrels of oil per day, and what purpose do these colossal foreign exchange reserves which are left at America's disposal serve for the Muslim people of Arab countries? In any case, we are sending a mission to these countries to explain our position and notify them of our aims.

In answer to a question as to whether he has had any talks with Arab ambassadors with regard to the economic blockade of Iran, Bani Sadr said: We have held detailed talks with Arab ambassadors about the need for unity of action with regard to oil. In any case, the U.S. Government cannot stop purchases of oil from Iran unless it resorts to military means, in which case the flow of the oil would be stopped to the world. Meanwhile, we must not sell our oil for a song and pour out this wealth which belongs to future generations for the insatiable appetite of the (?West) in so short a time.

Referring to the Arab foreign ministers' conference in Tunisia, Bani Sadr said: We protested the decisions reportedly taken in the Tunisia conference during our meeting with the ambassadors. We told them that at no time in recent Iranian history has there been such a need for concerted unity between Iran and the Arab countries: that the response made by some Arab leaders to such a call for unity is not an appropriate response to our sincere and pure sentiments and measures.

In reply to another question concerning concerted action between the Arab and Iranian Governments against ths hostile attitude adopted by America, Bani Sadr said: There exists a community of decisions and action between ourselves and the countries concerned with liberation from the yoke of America; this will expand in the future. We hope that this concerted action will encompass all Islamic countries and the Muslim nations rise to take cohesive decisions to liberate themselves from American domination.

Answering another question on attempts to clear the dark clouds between Iran and Arab countries, Bani Sadr said: We consider ourself to be one nation with a single culture. Consequently, it is not we who created these dark clouds during the revolution. If, God forbid, there are such dark clouds, then they are the outcome of an unreasonable attitude by others toward us. Obviously, once such attitudes are corrected the clouds will also disperse.

In conclusion, a correspondent raised a question about unlawful interference by Iraq in the western part of Iran. Bani Sadr replied: We have already held talks on this topic. We hope that the Iraqi Government will abandon the attitude it has so far adopted toward our revolution. As for the time being, the problem could be solved through diplomatic talks. The problem can really be solved when the nation is no longer ready to perpetuate disputes which favor Western and superpower domination. Consequently, the attitude adopted by us with decisiveness is to (?explain) the situation of the Muslim countries; we shall continue this approach, for our revolution showed that this is the most effective and, ultimately, the shortest way to realize true fraternal relations between all Muslim nations.

Bani Sadr Appeal to Europeans

LD181535 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Nov 79 LD

[Message from the supervisor of the Foreign Ministry "to the European people"--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] The experts in deceiving public opinion have said many times, and continue to say, that Iran's Islamic revolution has no other aim than to oppose the West; that is a lie.

They speak of their tolerance; they speak of the attack on the U.S. Embassy and the imprisonment of its staff; but they do not utter a word about our right to freedom.

We Iranians and all the oppressed people of the world would not benefit, in the slightest, from harboring enmity toward others, provided we ourselves are not subjected to hostility. You Europeans, who are under pressure from both sides, are right to worry about your future.

We both have various economic needs. For example, you need oil and we require industrial equipment for (?accelerating) economic growth.

Present relations are not healthy and must definitely be altered; the new relations must only be based on the united world viewpoint which does not accept contradictory destinies for nations. On this basis, the way would be open for fruitful cooperation.

We hope that, with regard to this message, you will learn that our presistent demand for the extradiction of the former shah is aimed at ending this dark period and embarking on a new period. It it not time for them not to prefer an international criminal to a nation?

Ayatollah Beheshti's Press Conference

LD181218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1104 GMT 18 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Ayatollah Dr Beheshti, secretary of the Revolution Council, has taken part in a press conference with domestic and foreign correspondents, at which he spoke about various issues concerning Iran's political and economic affairs.

During the press conference, Ayatollah Beheshti said:

Our people's Islamic revolution has embarked on a new phase, a phase in which we shall begin to complete the country's economic independence, without which the country cannot be politically independent. In this phase, we are determined to follow a path in the economic field which will make us economically independent of any country or political and economic bloc.

I am not saying that we should not have any economic ties with any country; today, the world is integrated, with all countries and nations interrelated. I do not wish to say that the Iranian Islamic Republic wants to take an isolated course politically and economically; never. What I would like to stress is that our nation and republic want full-fledged economic and political independence.

Our economy, whether oil-based, agricultural, traditional or based on trade, must advance quickly toward self-sufficiency for our Muslim nation.

We announce quite categorically that during this phase we aim to dismantle Iran's domestic and foreign economic relations, which have been in the service of influential domestic and foreign figures; we shall replace it with a new order which will serve the deprived and all the Iranian nation as well as the Islamic nations and the world and humanity.

Ayatollah Beheshti added: Since we do not consider our nation's interests, the interests of all the deprived people as well as the interests of Muslims, as contradictory to the interests of humanity, then there is no doubt that during this sensitive phase, this new phase of our revolution, our revolutionary people must face certain problems with revolutionary enthusiasm. Fortunately, considering the abundant blessings that God has given you, dear Iranian people, these problems will not last long, provided that you, dear nation, try to utilize all our powers to coordinate the economy in this phase.

Later, Dr Beheshti said: Fortunately, it will not be necessary for the Revolution Council of the Islamic Republic to take over the running of the country for the next few months; although it will try to shorten the length of its assignment, it will nevertheless take steps along the paths which will be this country's permanent way in the future. This is of great significance to us. The Revolution Council will try to make this period as short as possible; however, it will attempt to make its programs as long-term as possible; for any foundation laid down today, will be the foundation upon which to build the future.

We are happy that the constitution has been formulated; the main lines of the Revolution Council's work can be those set out by the constitution.

Referring to foreign policies and our country's complete economic independence, Dr Beheshti said: In the field of foreign policy, article 152 says that the Islamic Iranian Republic's foreign policy will be based on negating any domination or acceptance of domination, the protection of our comprehensive independence and the territorial integrity of the country, defense of the rights of all Muslims, nonalinement regarding the dominating powers and mutual peaceful relations with nonhostile countries. On the basis of article 153, any agreement which may lead to foreign domination over our natural resources, economic, culture, or army, or other aspects of the country, is forbidden.

Commenting on the economic aspect, Dr Behesnti said: We have a great many articles in the final draft constitution in this regard. Article 43, clause 8, concerns the prevention of foreign economic domination over the country; and clause 9 stresses a growth in agricultural production, animal husbandry and industry, to meet social requirements, move the country toward self-sufficiency and free it from dependence.

For instance, measures will be taken to insure that the Karun agro-industrial company will no longer be confined to producing asparagus, for this is not what the nation generally needs.

This ready prepared land with all its energy resources must be turned over to meeting social needs, with luxury-producing agriculture and industry being replaced by what can really meet the people's requirements. Moreover, we shall stop the concentration of economic activity in certain centers.

Dr Beheshti then referred article 48. He said: In utilizing natural resources and making use of national revenues at the provincial level as well as developing economic activity, to the provinces and various parts of the country no discrimination must take place, each region will enjoy, according to its requirements, potential and growth, the necessary capital and facilities.

Consequently, the Revolution Council, addressing the dear Kurdish, Baluchi, Turkoman Sahra and all other regions, says: Precisely at a time when foreign agents are trying to frustate the implementation of this creative plan, as the final draft of the constitution is being prepared and approved, when the Revolution Council has taken decisive action and a government is to take over through a majlis elected by the people, our recommendation to the entire nation is to prevent these plots through alertness and solidarity, and to enable the Revolution Council and then the future revolutionary majlis and its elected government to advance toward the realization of these aspirations with all their might.

Further Details

NC181150 Paris AFP in English 1134 GMT 18 Nov 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, Nov 18 (AFP)--Iran's Revolution Council has 13 members, works by committees, has no chairman and will soon gain another two members.

Those details about Iran's rather mysterious ruling executive body were disclosed by council secretary Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti today during a press conference.

The council takes its decisions collectively or by special-responsibility groups, he said. There is no council leader, and members will soon name another two people to sit on the powerful council.

There are four council committees--International and Political Affairs, Economy, Industry, and Social Affairs. Every group member is responsible to the council as a whole for applying decisions affecting his sector.

Group members meet regularly with ministers and their aides, and decisions are made either by the group or by the full council, depending on their importance, the ayatollah said.

Council members meet at least three hours daily.

Student Press Conference

ID181254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1120 GMT 18 Nov 79 ID

[Text] According to the central news bureau correspondent at the U.S. spy den, a large number of various classes of the people gathered in front of the U.S. Embassy today in support of the revolutionary act of the fighting Muslim youths and student followers of the imam's policy.

According to the same report, following the imam's order that the blacks and the women who are not known to have carried out espionage be delivered to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a group of the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy was chosen and they gave a press conference this afternoon.

Also according to the same report, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni will also participate in the delivery of this group to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and later their deportation.

Ambassador Denies Student Plan

JN181507 Doha QNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 18 Nov 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 18 November--Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr 'Ali Shams Ardakani has described the reiterated reports on the possibility of Iranian students seizing the Strait of Hormuz as ridiculous. World nations, particularly in the Gulf area, will not believe such matters, he said. Ambassador Ardakani said this in a statement published in the Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH today.

Commenting on the U.S. decision to freeze Iranian assets, Ambassador Ardakani said: The American decision refutes U.S. claims about respecting the freedom of international trade. The United States will not hesitate to resort to such methods to safeguard its illegitimate interests in its dealings with world nations.

The Iranian ambassador called upon the Arab states to learn their lesson from this decision, especially since their deposits and investments amount to $100 million [figure as received]. The United States will use these efforts to force their owners to tow the American line, he concluded.

Khomeyni Interview on Hostages

ID181800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Nov 79 ID

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran, today received correspondents of American television's CBS, ABC and NBC networks separately for an interview. At the outset of the news bulletin of the Voice of the Iranian Islamic Republic tonight we draw your attention to sections of the imam's interview with the correspondents of the American ABC and NBC networks. [Begin recording in English with translation of the question into Persian, followed by Khomeyni's recorded answers]

[Question] (?As you know) you are holding hostages at the American Embassy in Tehran in contradiction of all international provisions. Would you release the hostages? Would you release the hostages and when would you release the hostages?

[Answer] Do international conventions provide for the sending of spies into a country in the name of an ambassador or a charge d'affaires or not? Or should there be ambassadors who do not want to commit treachery against a country, spy against a country, who do not want to set up the apparatus of a regime? It is this kind of people whom it would be wrong to take as hostages. But what our nation has done is to arrest a bunch of spies, who, according to the norms, should be investigated, tried and treated in accordance with our own laws. As for what Carter has done, it is contrary to international laws; for a criminal--a criminal who has acted against a country--should come to the country concerned and be tried. No country is entitled to give sanctuary to a criminal and keep him there contrary to international norms. It is Carter who has acted against international norms, not us.

[Question] Mr Carter has clearly stated that he will not return the shah to Iran. On the other hand, the diplomats and their families are terribly upset about the situation. Is there any room for negotiation?

[Answer] Until he returns this criminal, and as long as Mr Carter fails to respect international laws, we cannot return these spies. Even if we return these spies after the shah has come, it will because we have been lenient. Otherwise, they should be tried and be dealt with here in accordance with our laws.

[Question] My other question was [words indistinct] is what the ayatollah is saying is the only condition is that the shah be returned to Iran before the hostages are released. Is this your only condition?

[Answer] The only condition lies in the return of the shah, and this is because we are being lenient toward them.

[Question] The United States and Iran are involved in an economic and political war, which is escalating every day. And the ayatollah still refuses to see any representatives whatsoever of President Carter. Why?

[Answer] This is an economic and political war that Mr Carter has brought about, and we are afraid neither of his political war nor of his economic war. For we believe, rather, that the political war will certainly be harmful to America and the economic war will not harm us. Nevertheless, until the shah is returned, until the criminal is returned to us, and until Carter bows to international laws, we cannot find a way for negotiations.

[Question] [Word indistinct] has been reported as saying that it is not in the interest of Iran to have relations with the United States at all. Is it possible that at some point you will simply break all relations with the United States then [words indistinct] including the hostages and end the matter with the United States?

[Answer] It is possible, but this has to be studied. The relations that we have had with the United States up to now, and the kind of embassy that America has had in Iran, are not acceptable. But, if this spying den is transformed into a proper embassy and if the kind of relations the United States had with the former regime ceases to exist, and if, we feel it suitable that some of relations be maintained, then I do not see any reason why relations cannot be maintained.

[Translator interrupts] What he really wants to know is whether or not the hostages will be returned if relations between Iran and America are severed?

[Answer] We should investigate and find out if the hostages are diplomats or people who came here to spy. We can not return spies and there are no conditions of relations which say that spies should be returned. But if they are proved to be diplomats, and if relations are severed, then there will not be any objections. [as heard]

[Question] Imam, would you be willing to meet President Carter personally? [Words indistinct] your persuasion on him, and if your answer is yes, would you be willing to meet him in a third country, say France, where you spent part of your own exile?

[Answer] Such a meeting would not affect the issue. If Mr Carter wants to make us step down from our demands--from demanding the return of that criminal, something that he should do according to international regulations--it is out of the question. If the shah is returned, then there will be no point in our meeting. Therefore, I am not willing to meet him.

[Question] I have talked to many of the people in front of the embassy. People and students assure me that whatever happens the American hostages will never be killed. Will you give us that same assurance?

[Answer] The issue is no doubt as they put it, and so long as the hostages are there, they are sheltered by Islam and they will not be harmed. They will be staying there enjoying complete ease. When our criminal is returned--although according to regulations we should try those who are being kept in the embassy--we are prepared to grant them a degree of concession and we will return them.

[Question] Do I take it that the answer is yes and that they will never be killed under any circumstances?

[Translator--in English] No, not under any circumstances. They should be tried and if the shah is not coming back.... [here the translator turns to the ayatollah and explains the point in Persian] Your Eminence, there is a delicate point here. If the shah is not returned, naturally, as you have indicated before, they will definitely be tried.

[Answer] If this is prolonged, they will definitely be tried.

[Translator--in Persian] Then whatever the court decides will be acted upon. Is that so?

[Answer] Yes.

Student Statement No 38

LD181942 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Nov 79 LD

[Statement No 38 of the Muslim students followers of the imam's policy, addressed to American women, issued 18 November--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Free-thinking women of America, we are calling on you now at a time when our country's great criminal is in your country. The government that is ruling you in America has given sanctuary to the greatest murderer in human history. For a long time, the shah--this germ of corruption, of plunder and murder--spilled the blood of our heroic women in the streets. He massacred our dear young girls, and this criminal, who was sitting on the throne with the help of a coup d'etat engineered by the American Government, prevented any action aimed at seeking freeom and vindicating the people's rights and massacred our dear people.

Truly, if you had witnessed the tragic scenes of killing and of flattening the bodies of little children and youngsters under the wheels of tanks and a hail of bullets from American-made machineguns, what would you have felt? Can you put yourself for one moment in the place of those mothers whose babes-in-arms fell to the ground thanks to American bullets? We still remember the heart-rendering tears you shed for the children you lost in Vietnam. We still remember your glorious demonstrations against the Vietnam war in the streets of Washington and New York. Our mothers and sisters value the motherly and sisterly feelings that led to ending of that imposed war.

The Muslims of the world regard the Holy Mary as a symbol of purity, kindness and sympathy. The noble Koran describes this pious woman as the first among women the world over. Muslims expect you to be the worthy and good followers of that holiness. Muslims expect the sort of children you rear to be good followers of Jesus Christ, God's messenger.

Rise against all evil things and prevent acts of oppression. Islam is a school of thought that speaks of women in the highest terms, according them great value and distinction, and it even recognizes special rights and privileges for women. It has been said that Islam has trampled women's natural rights underfoot and has insulted them. But this is an utter lie by the world's propaganda media, most of which are in the service of the world devourers and aggressive powers, who are propagating lies against Islam.

Women are those who reared the great men and the prophets. Perhaps you have heard or seen how heroic Iranian women led the men in the struggle against the barbaric, tortorous shah. From the standpoint of Islam, women are not only entitled to but also duty-bound to take part in all social responsibilities, the most important of which is to rise against injustice and plunder. And those shameless people who have twisted the freedom-loving school of Islam and have cited the use of harems and the enslavement of women in the anti-Islamic regimes of the past shahs of Iran as evidence of the value of women in Islam are like the traitorous shah and his associates, who are now living in your country.

After he killed or injured 165,000 people, our country eventually brought down the regime of the criminal shah and established an Islamic republic, which represents nothing but Islamic justice and freedom. And now, Carter has given sanctuary to this murderer shah, who is making propaganda against our Muslim people. We are confident that if you knew about the shah's crimes; if you knew that the embassy of your government in our country has been a center of conspiracy and plunder; if you learned about the liberalism of Muslim and Iranian women; if you could see and feel the anger and grief of the women whose brothers and children were tortured or killed by the shah's agents; if you put yourselves in the place of the mothers whose children's legs have been severed under torture, who have had holes driven into their heads, the whole of their bodies burned by electrical means--if you had seen and felt these things then you would not have allowed the traitorous shah to enter America, something which had been planned months beforehand by Vance and the charge d'affaires of the American Embassy in Iran, and you would not today regard anything as being more sacred than the handing over of this criminal to Iran so that he could be tried in accordance with norms of justice.

Esteemed American women and other Americans, you certainly have the power to force Carter to return to the expectant nation of Iran the shah and wealth he has plundered, in the same way you forced your previous President to end the Vietnam War. We are confident that this crisis has one and one only solution--handing the shah over to Iran. Force Carter to surrender the shah and his assets so that he can be tried and punished before the great Iranian nation and world public opinion and before you.

[Signed] The Muslim student followers of the imam's policy.

Student Statement No 39

LD182218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2147 GMT 18 Nov 79 LD

[Statement No 39 of the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy "stationed at the 'den of American espionage"; issued 18 November--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. This is to inform the noble and great Iranian nation that in accordance with instructions from the great leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, to the effect that the blacks and women whose espionage activity is not established should be delivered to the Foreign Ministry to expel them from Iran, thus the investigation group began its final investigations, as a result of which it has announced its views concerning the release of eigh black men and five women, and the imam's command regarding their release was immediately communicated to them.

Following that, a physician from the Red Lion and Sun Society, accompanied by a representative from the Red Cross were brought in and they expressed their views concerning the good health of the hostages to be released. Thus this is to announce that on Monday 19 November 1979 they will be delivered to a representative of the Foreign Ministry so that immediate action for their expulsion from our dear country will be taken.

Meanwhile, it is necessary to explain that in light of the complexity of the problems relating to the espionage activities of the CIA and the fact that the most important documents and records available at this den of espionage have been destroyed by the staff of the embassy, it is probable that some of these released might not be innocent, but in line with the crucial obligation of a follower following the command of the great leader of the revolution, Imam Khomeyni, action was taken to release the blacks and the women who could not be proven as spies.

[Signed] Muslim student followers of the iman's policy.

Press Conference By Hostages

LD190036 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2330 GMT 18 Nov 79 LD

[Text] According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY, a spokesman for the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy told PARS NEWS AGENCY reporters today: In addition to the 3 hostages who will be released, 10 additional hostages will also be released. Today three American hostages--two blacks and one women--who will be released, participated in a press conference and a radio and television interview. Following the press conference, the same spokesman said that 10 others, who are also blacks and women, will be subsequently released.

The hostages who are scheduled to be released from the American espionage den, at a press conference held at 2100 tonight, said they would explain the demands of the Muslim Iranian nation to their compatriots in America and that they would put them in touch with the truth about the situation in Iran. One American woman hostage stressed that it is every nation's right to demand that other countries not interfere in its internal affairs, and I will convey this demand of your nation to my compatriots. [first person as heard]

According to a correspondent of the central news bureau of the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Republic of Iran, following Imam Khomeyni's command regarding the release of a number of hostages from the American espionage den, interviews have been held with two black men and also one woman hostage, who are scheduled to be released. The interviews were attended by a large number of local and foreign correspondents.

During the interviews various issues relating to Iran-U.S. relations and also the manner in which the hostages were treated and their way of life while they were with the students were put to the hostages. The hostages noted that throughout the period they lived in complete comfort and welfare. They attended the interviews without any fear and willingly, and I do not say anything other than the truth. [first person as heard]

One of the hostages said: I believe Carter must return the shah to the Iranian nation. The hostages expressed regret over the fact that Iranians residing in America have been hurt and attacked by some Americans. They said: In our view, the American nation does not know the truth. If the American people were put in touch with the developments in the Third World and America's interference in the internal affairs of these countries they would certainly protest to the American Government.

19 NOVEMBER DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. EMBASSY

Release of 3 Hostages

LD190647 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0630 GMT 19 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Three hostages of the occupied U.S. Embassy, on the basis of the imam's order to the effect that their being spies has not been established, at 0730 left Mehrabad airport in a plane for Copenhagen and left the Iranian territory. The three were two black men and one white woman.

10 More Possibly Released

LD190803 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 19 Nov 79 LD

[Text] The three American hostages who were released last night went to Copenhagen on SAS flight 792 this morning.

(Novel Macles), 20-year-old Marine, Kathy (Brod), 22-year-old secretary, and William Quarles, 24-year-old sergeant, went from the former U.S. Embassy to the airport this morning, leaving Tehran for Copenhagen at 0830.

Ten more hostages, four women and six blacks, are to leave Tehran today. This group will be handed over to the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs so that proceedings can be taken for their deportation.

Khomeyni Statement on PLO

LD191040 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 19 Nov 79 LD

[Statement issued 19 November by Imam Khomeyni's office--read by announcer]

[Text] In his exalted name: The noble and fighting Iranian nation are hereby notified that on page 1 of the newspaper BAMDAD, dated Monday, 19 November, 1979, Mr Hani al-Hasan, representative of the PLO, has been quoted as expressing gratitude to the imam for accepting their proposal on the release of the women and black hostages. The text of the interview says that Hani al-Hasan confirmed the PLO's mediation in the release of the American women and blacks. He said: We are glad that the imam has accepted our proposal and have released the oppressed blacks, the women and the non-Americans who were among the hostages.

If a representative of any organization other than the PLO has said such things, we would not have been surprised, but it is highly questionable that the representative of an organization that fights against Israel and knows that it is the United States that has forced Israel on dear Palestine and other Arab countries, should tell these lies in order to get close to the United States.

Mr Hani al-Hasan knows very well that the imam did not receive Mr Abu al-Walid, Mr 'Arafat's envoy, solely because he had pro-American proposals; this office strongly denies the report in the newspaper BAMDAD and asks the Palestinian brothers, relying on the exalted God to stand against the United States and Israel and never approach the conspiratorial United States to achieve their victory. They should be assured that only reliance on God can achieve the victory.

[Signed] Imam Khomeyni's office, Qom, 19 November 1979.

Hostages Taken to Airport

ID191105 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 79 ID

[Text] Ten hostages, four women and six blacks, are to leave Tehran today. The group, before leaving the country, will be handed over to a Foreign Ministry representative so that arrangements can be made for their expulsion.

It ought to be pointed out that Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni accompanied the hostages to the airport, where he was interviewed by our correspondent. The interview will be carried at the end of this bulletin.

Bani Sadr on U.S. Relations

ID191224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 19 Nov 79 ID

[Statement dated 19 November by Abolhasan Bani Sadr, supervisor of the Foreign Ministry, "on the subject of breaking off relations with the United States"--read by announcer]

[Text] It seems that one of the customs of revolutionary intellectualism is to nag. Some people who always start working after things have already been done, who are late on arrival, but are in a hurry to take over the running of things, have come up with a new idea. On the basis of this idea, they are posing a question: Why are measures not taken to break off relations with America? Another similar small group has circulated a reply with certain words in bold type.

The supervisor of the Foreign Ministry says: We have no wish to break relations with America. I wish relations between Iran and the domineering American could have been confined to the closure of embassies and to making arrangments for the affairs of the two countries' nationals in each country. Had it been confined to such measures, there would be no need to break off relations. However, since these people suddenly decide to take some sort of action, without attaching any importance to knowledge or information in forming their views, and that after certain measures have already been taken, that is after the people themsleves have taken an initiative, they think that relations are simply confined to having embassies, and that breaking off relations means issuing statements to the effect that the embassies have been closed.

However, even in these terms these people do not think correctly; for relations with America have been broken off on this level since the banning of any negotiations with that country. Perhaps there is no precedent in our history when Iran has gone so far in breaking off relations, to the extent that it even refused to respond to persistent appeals and daily attempts at contact by a party.

At present, we have neither accepted any requests for meetings, nor have we responded to remarks and proposals made by the U.S. Government; nor have we agreed to any mediator. However, it is common knowledge that any official declaration of breaking off relations depends on the meeting of a condition, which is the extradition of the shah. Consequently, the breaking off of relations, even at the diplomatic level, whether direct or indirect, has been completely achieved. And then even these relations are of no significance. The relations which must be cut off and (?which are important) are these: oil and dollars.

Nowadays, everyone knows that oil companies are American, that the oil currency is the basic dollar standard, which is the world's dominating currency. For at least 10 years the oil-producing countries, wherever they tried to strike a revolutionary posture, have claimed that oil should not be sold in dollars; yet they keep doing so.

Withdrawing Iranian money from the Rockefeller bank and realizing the idea of selling oil in foreign currencies other than the dollar constitute the breaking off of relations between the dominated and the dominating countries in the real sense of the phrase.

If the oil-producing countries have so far failed to do this, their excuse is based on the idea that the dollar would be devalued and that billions of dollars of their deposits would be devalued. This is nonsense; for these moneys nominally belong to the oil-producing countries; they are in fact easy money under the control of big capitalists banks. The step taken by the U.S. Government in freezing Iran's assets demonstrated that such funds are not (?really) in the control of the oil-producing countries.

In another part of the message, it is said that measures to replace the dollar with a combination of other foreign currencies follows a series of actual actions taken in breaking off of relations with American capitalism. Should the other oil-producing countries follow this truly revolutionary action, then the world monetary system will be drastically altered and the world will be saved from America's monetary domination.

However, in order to make a success of this action, it is up to us to start thinking quickly for our other dependent relations. According to reports we received yesterday, the Zionist Americans and mercenaries, namely the fugitive capitalists, have claimed that Iran's economy will soon collapse, that the Khomeyni regime will soon fall.

The meaning of this claim is obvious: to create chaos, tumult and guerrilla warfare, escalating strikes and sit-ins, so that production will be paralyzed.

On 19 [as heard] November, the HERALD TRIBUNE wrote: On the basis of an idea put forward by (?the CIA), minority groups resisting Imam Khomeyni, like the Kurds in the north, should be supplied with weapons, even missiles, so that they may achieve their autonomy. Moreover, measures must be taken to stop delivery of raw materials and the like, as well as spare parts, so that factories can be brought to a halt.

Bani Sadr then adds: A true breaking off of relations can only take place when the country is engaged in work night and day, thus making if possible to break off dominating relations abroad.

Now the question is posed: Who is working inside the country in a direction which would make the breaking off of relations with America unsuccessful? Who is it that does not know that when we do not produce domestically then we have to import? If we wanted to increase our imports, then we would become helpless before the Americans and would not be able to dispose of them, thus we would collapse. What is the reason then for so many provocations and plots? It is up to us then to meet our economic requirements outside the U.S. sphere of influence as soon as possible; to make haste to get on with our work in an organized manner within the country, so that our endeavours might bear fruit.

There were--and still are--those who used to urge the breaking off of economic relations between the American dominating economy and the dependent Iranian economy; they will do. Now, after 8 and 1/2 months of delay, we have begun this breaking off of relations; we have truly arrived at a new phase in our great revolution. Let us try to make our revolution victorious.

Certain people who are mesmerized by the American giant, have claimed that since the supervisor of the Foreign Ministry has said that we are at war with America, that since he has announced that we shall withdraw our money from U.S. banks, he provoked and forced America to freeze Iran's assets and so forth.

To begin with, it ought to be made clear to our people that, according to official reports available at the Foreign Ministry, following the occupation of the embassy by the Iranian students, it notified both the European countries and the rich Arab countries of its decisions. Now the criticism is leveled as to why no immediate efforts were made to correspond our foreign policy with the inevitable outcome of occupation of the spy nest. It is said that valuable days have been lost, that delay in taking action has resulted in financial losses. Moreover, we never said that we have entered a state of war with America; we have said, and we still say, that America is preparing the grounds for an all-embracing war against our revolution. Now why, by sending its secretary of state to the United Nations, did America prevent a meeting of the Security Council? Because it did not wish to create any doubt in U.S. public opinion.

In conclusion, stressing the need to liberate our country from the yoke of colonialism and exploitation, the supervisor of the Foreign Ministry adds: We have not yet investigated all the measures taken to liberate us from U.S. domination. Tomorrow we will attend to this. However, my dear brothers and sisters, you must remember that the implementation of a foreign policy, if it is to be successful, depends on a revolutionary order within the country. Any action which might lead to the weakening of such a policy, any step which might weaken the Revolution Council and the body responsible for this policy under these circumstances, will undoubtedly serve the enemy who does not want Iran to be free.

[Signed] Abolhasan Bani Sadr.

TABATABA'I NAMED SUPERVISOR OF PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

LD171030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Dr Sadeq Tabataba'i has been appointed supervisor of the various departments in the prime minister's office.

The public relations spokesman of the prime minister's office announced today that with the approval of the Revolution Council, Dr Sadeq Tabataba'i has been appointed supervisor of the departments in the prime minister's office and the affiliated organizations and has started his work.

NEW LABOR MINISTER APPOINTEE ANNOUNCED

LD172238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2100 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Text] In the course of an interview with the spokesman of the Revolution Council, he said that engineer Ne'matzadeh has been appointed minister of labor and social affairs.

NVOI WARNS PEOPLE AGAINST IMPROPER ACTIONS

TA171736 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT 16 Nov 79 TA

[Unattributed commentary: "The Revolutionary Resoluteness of the Iranian People"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Today, all the world's peoples are talking about the intensification of our nation's struggle against U.S. pressure and subversive actions in Iran.

Our nation's demand for an end to U.S. interference in Iran's internal affairs is being supported everywhere.

The events which are taking place in our country are purely internal matters, and all issues connected with them can only be solved by us. This matter is understood by all followers of freedom and justice both here and abroad. However, Iran's revolutionary masses should also understand many other things, too. The just struggle for freedom from U.S. pressure and the anti-American demonstrations cannot and must not have a [word indistinct] quality, and the struggle cannot be waged by anti-humanitarian means. It is an obvious fact that the student's occupation of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran has inspired all Iran. Along with them, all the people demand the extradition of the deposed shah from the United States.

Even outstanding American personalities admit that the United States has sheltered a criminal and plunderer. Andrew Young, the former permanent U.S. representative at the United Nations, in an article published in the newspaper [word indistinct] NEWS, reminded his compatriots that the shah is personally guilty of the murder of thousands of people and that he stole $5 to $6 billion of the nation's wealth from the government's treasury before fleeing the country. Therefore, the demand of the Iranian people for the expulsion of the shah from the United States and for his delivery to Iran for [words indistinct] is a completely logical demand.

However, will we succeed in having the shah returned by resorting to means that are incompatible with the ideals of the revolution? Is the country interested in (?strengthening) its positions in the international arena? [Name indistinct], the chairman of the United Nations Security Council, expressed regret in a statement in which the taking hostage of the American diplomats in Tehran was discussed. This statement was issued following consultations among members of the Security Council. The chairman of the Security Council said: While we do not intend to interfere in the internal affairs of any country, we must point out that the right of immunity of diplomatic officials and their [word indistinct] should conform with international laws under all conditions.

The successful means for the revolution's progress are the discipline of the fighting struggle of the whole people and the [word indistinct], patience and [word indistinct] of its leaders. Our country's national and progressive forces have high regard for the decisiveness of and consistent stand taken by Imam Khomeyni as the revolution's leader, and for his struggle to eliminate the pressure of (?imperialism), to maintain social freedoms and [words indistinct].

At the same time, everyone knows that this struggle will not achieve success (?and honor) under conditions in which there is interference by the enemy's forces from abroad. At present, the important thing is to mobilize the deprived people of Iran in order to restore the ruins inherited from the era of the 50-year domination of the monarchic regime.

Imam Khomeyni says you should not think that those people who are sitting in departments, governorates-general and in other governmental positions are working for you. Many of them are (?connected) with the crimes of the former regime. These people do not help, they obstruct. We should not rely on these corrupt intellectuals, but on the working class, the educated farmers and the people of the bazaar, [words indistinct] whom I call the learned class. It is precisely they who have staged the revolution, and in the end it is they who can move the revolution forward. They did not wait for the governors-general and other officials to help the people. Many civil servants helped the revolution. However, there are still many of these civil servants who think as they did in the previous era and who resort to obstruction. Even now they serve the foreigners in the hope that the previous regime will return and they will again live in palaces and the ordinary people in huts.

These guidelines of Imam Khomeyni show the direction of the struggle and the path which the revolution must travel without delay. If we do not resort to improper acts, we will travel this path more easily.

NVOI DERIDES COLONIALIST PROPAGANDA, CONSPIRACY

TA172000 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 17 Nov 79 TA

[Unattributed commentary: "The Iranian People Will Triumph in the Struggle Against Imperialism"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The decisive action of the Islamic Revolution Council in the face of the anti-Iranian conspiracies, provocations and threats of imperialist circles has once more caused the imperialists to bare their claws and teeth. All the propaganda machines and public media of colonialist countries are howling with one voice and have extensively launched hostile propaganda against Iran. A number of rags dependent on the plundering Western monopolies have become so impudent as to suggest the overthrow of our country's present regime by resorting to military force, and they also propose the use of allegedly decisive generals and efficient politicians to return the country to the previous situation.

The imperialists are threatening our awakened nation with an economic boycott, and in this respect they do not stop at any conspiracy and provocation. What can one do? The Iranian people did not expect anything other than this from their enemies. Imam Khomeyni has justly said: Let America not threaten us with an economic boycott. Our nation is used to difficulties and to enduring hardships. Yes, our nation is used to the difficulties and hardships resulting from the despotic rule of the former shah and the unchallenged domination of imperialism. It was in the furnace of these difficulties and hardships that our homeland's people were tempered and rose in the struggle to end this pitiful situation, and the roaring flood of their revolution under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni washed away as if it were straw the entire satanic apparatus borne of the black coup d'etat of 28 Mordad [19 August].

That regime was demolished and the new palace of the Islamic republic was established on its ruins. Our nation has now arisen in order to destroy the main cause of these deprivations--that is it has risen to eradicate the traces and remnants of the domination of U.S. imperialism--and according to the imam has launched a second revolution.

Imperialism does not want to let go of its plundering positions. For this reason it has intensified its intrigue and conspiracies against our nation and has entered the arena from positions of terror and (?bullying). However, ruling circles, whether in the United States, England or elsewhere, should know that this time they are greatly mistaken in their calculations. That era has passed in which they could implement their devilish schemes by means of their mercenaries and elements and impose their will on our country's people. The Iranian people are ready to endure any difficulty or hardship to preserve independence and to defend their national sovereignty. However, they will never again be ready to take on the burden of the impositions of imperialist countries.

The threats of imperialist countries will not be able to frighten our proud nation. Today, our homeland's people possess such a revolutionary and political awareness that they can overcome the intolerable difficulties which are the heritage of the former regime and its imperialist masters. The primary requisites for this task are unity, oneness, again unity and solidarity among the people, all strata and classes of people, and among all national and anti-imperialist parties, organizations and forces.

Every patriotic Iranian, every Iranian worker, every Iranian farmer, every tradesman, student and young Iranian employee should exert all their efforts in order to revive the industrial and agricultural sectors and to spur the economic development of the country. The answer to the conspiracies of imperialist circles should not only be given in the political sphere but also in the economic sphere by means of creative work. The enemy is on the verge of dealing a blow at our nation at any moment and of depriving it of the revolution's gains. One must be alert and vigilant. We should all rise in unison in support of the imam's line. We must be diligent in respect to the continuity and deepening of the revolution and its gains by following the imam's prudent recommendations and instructions.

Progressive mankind is the protector and supporter of the just struggles of the Iranian people, and this international support and solidarity are the things which, when blended with the decisive and united struggles of our nation, will bring the future victory of our nation closer and closer. The Iranian nation has launched a crusade against imperialism and neo-colonialism with one heart and soul. There is no doubt that the Iranian nation will attain victory in these just struggles under the decisive leadership of Imam Khomeyni.

KHOMEYNI HOLDS TALKS WITH AMBASSADOR TO USSR

LD181942 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Dr Mohammad Mokri, the Iranian ambassador to the USSR, met Imam Khomeyni in Qom this afternoon. At this meeting which lasted 1 hour, the two discussed Iran's foreign policy with regard to bilateral relations between Iran and the USSR. Persian Gulf problems, colonialist threats, military and political traffic in the region, economic and cultural relations between Iran and the USSR, the increase in the price of Iran's gas exports and coordinating the economic contracts within the spirit of Islamic revolution were some of the other items discussed at the meeting between the imam and the Iranian ambassador to the USSR. The imam was informed of the invitation extended to the struggling clergy of Iran by the clergy of trans-Caucasia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and the Muslims of Armenia and Nakhichevan. The permission to be granted to a group of clergy of Caucasia, Moscow, Leningrad and Central Asia to enter Iran during the month of Moharram was discussed as well.

At the end of this meeting, Dr Mokri talked about the imam's message to the brave people of Kordestan. The message was, in fact an ultimatum to the entire nation of Iran, and if the imam's kindness and affection toward the Kurdish people does not reach the ears of those few instigators, it will be a pity. We know that our Kurdish brothers and sisters have always been the guardians of the country's borders, and that they will not be prepared to sell an inch of Iran's soil to the enemies of Islam and Iran. Attributing instigation to the Kurdish people will be far removed from reality and will not coincide with the reality of the Islamic revolution.

RELATIONS WITH LIBYA RESUME AT CHARGE D'AFFAIRES LEVEL

LD161420 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 79 LD

[Text] According to the spokesman of the Islamic Revolution Coucil, Iran and Libya yesterday agreed that diplomatic relations should be resumed at charge d'affaires level.

AFP: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH IRAQ RESUMED

NC161404 Paris AFP in English 1313 GMT 16 Nov 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16 (AFP)--Iran and Iraq have reached agreement to renew diplomatic relations at charge d'affaires level, Iraqi radio said in a broadcast monitored here.

Iraq broke off relations when Iranian soldiers occupied three islands--Abu Mussa, Big and Little Tumb--at the mouth of the Gulf in November 1971. Since then the two countries have had consular relations but this month both capitals have called for the closing of consulates in their respective countries. Two Iraqi consulates in eastern Iran were recently occupied for a time by Iranian militants.

Denial of Iraq's Attack

LD171804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Text] According to the central news bureau, the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran today announced that the Iraqi ambassador to Iran has gone to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and categorically denied reports about the readiness of the Iraqi Government to attack the land and borders of Iran.

The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs added that the Kuwaiti ambassador to Iran, in a talk with Abolhasan Bani Sadr, has categorically denied reports about U. S. military movements within Kuwait.

SYRIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO BANI SADR

LD182020 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Ibrahim Ahmad Mahmud Yunis, the new Syrian ambassador to Iran, went to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning at 1000 and presented his credentials to Abolhasan Bani Sadr, the supervisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The new Syrian ambassador at his meeting with the supervisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, congratulated him on the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran led by Imam Khomeyni, and conveyed the greetings of the nation and the government of Syria to him. Abolhasan Bani Sadr, in reply expressed his hopes of providing all the means for cooperation and friendship between the two fraternal nations of Iran and Syria. He added: The Islamic revolution of Iran heralds the freedom of all the oppressed nations of the world from the yolk of international colonialism.

DELEGATION TO ATTEND ARAB SUMMIT IN TUNIS

JN181355 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Nov 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 18 November--The SANA correspondent in Kuwait has learned that Iran will send a delegation to the 10th Arab summit conference meeting in Tunis on Tuesday to inform the Arab leaders about the latest developments in the confrontation between Iran and the U. S. Government and also to discern the Arab countries' position on this subject.

TRANSACTIONS WITH COMPANIES DEALING WITH ISRAEL BANNED

LD171158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Abolhasan Bani Sadr, supervisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and minister of economic affairs and finance, announced today that the Iranian Government has banned any transaction with commercial and industrial companies which have dealings with Israel. Bani Sadr announced this matter in an interview which he had with the correspondents of Arabic newspapers this morning.

AFGHANISTAN

AMIN GIVES INTERVIEW TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

LD152028 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 13 Nov 79 LD

["Text" of interview granted by Hafizollah Amin, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, president of the Afghan Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, to correspondents of TASS, GDR radio and television, and the British paper THE OBSERVER--read by announcer; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Question by GDR television correspondent: Western propaganda continues to report what they describe as disturbances in Afghanistan. Could you describe the real situation in Afghanistan for the people of the GDR?

Answer: With the Sawr Revolution in Afghanistan, our toiling people with one voice supported the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA]. They took part in the defense of the Sawr Revolution and are defending it to this day with great enthusiasm. We can say this with confidence and pride: Had there been no foreign interference in our country, there would not have been the need to fire even a single bullet at the counterrevolutionary elements, because they were so weak and small in number that the use of arms was not necessary. Over 98 percent of the inhabitants of Afghanistan are toiling people, and the remaining 2 percent were exploitationist parasites who lived by the labor of the toiling people of Afghanistan. With the victory of the Sawr Revolution, their fall was started, and after the distribution of land--which is a source of pride--they no longer possessed any social strength in Afghanistan. They recently took refuge with the foreign enemies of our revolution and our people and they are being given financial assistance and arms. Their shadow is getting longer through foreign agents and mercenaries, but we are proud that we are victoriously resisting them in practical terms. You may have heard that these enemies of our homeland have been facing severe defeat. The brave armed forces of our toiling people manfully attacked them, and are now searching in order to find them and expose their black faces to our toiling people.

At present, not only are the counterrevolutionary elements on the run, but their foreign masters and collaborators are also trying to escape the severe blow of our people. Our toiling people attack them with great patriotism and with extreme pride, and seek them in their hideouts in mountains and valleys. These elements will be chased until they take refuge again in the (?lap) of their masters. And now the BBC is crying loudly, which indicates clearly that the blows of the valiant people of Afghanistan have caused sadness and pain to the enemies. You see for yourself that right now they are under DRA control.

Question by GDR television correspondent: Could you describe the nature of the DRA constitution?

Answer: As we have said in the past, the major aim of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] and of the DRA is to build a socialist society in the country. This society will be built with the aid of the people and with their efforts. Our constitution will prepare the groundwork of the country's prosperity for the toiling people of Afghanistan.

[Answer continues] In this way, it will specify the obligations of the toiling people of Afghanistan so that the people may join this great revolutionary movement with a sense of patriotism. Apart from this, the constitution will assure for the toiling people of Afghanistan complete (?freedom), complete legality and complete justice. Work will be available to them and they will work to the extent of their ability. The main aim of the constitution is to guarantee the future proud life of the toiling people of Afghanistan, and light the path in such a manner that with a change of leadership in Afghanistan, the path of attaining the goal of building a socialist society will not be changed.

Question by GDR television correspondent: What is the importance of cooperation with the USSR and other socialist countries in the development of Afghanistan?

Answer: The toiling people of Afghanistan, the PDPA and the DRA are proud that by having a (?scientific) ideology, the epoch-making ideology of the working class, they are enjoying the (?friendship) and fraternity of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. We are completely convinced that without the (?unreserved) economic and [words indistinct] of the Soviet Union, we could not have resisted the aggressions and conspiracies of imperialism and its leftist-looking allies and international reaction, and move our country in the direction of building a socialist society. Therefore, the toiling people of Afghanistan are fully convinced that the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries are extensively assisting us [words indistinct] while respecting our independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity. They are giving us as much assistance as we the toiling people of Afghanistan can utilize for the protection of our revolution and the construction of our revolutionary country, and we utilize it for the defense of our independence, our revolution and the prosperity of our homeland.

Question by THE OBSERVER correspondent: In view of what is taking place in Iran or the neighboring countries of Afghanistan, do you consider your revolution as the most (?effective) alternative in the world of Islam?

Answer: Our revolution has a class character which has come about on the basis of the ideology of the working class. We are building a socialist society in Afghanistan. It is never possible for any country or any people who are determined to build a socialist society to do so without a class revolution under the leadership of the party of the working class. In my view, in any country, when the working class attains power it must enjoy the leadership of a party of the working class. Hence, the revolution that we are conducting is the best way for the construction of an ideal socialist country, and this can be followed by our brethren in any part of the world which have similar conditions in Afghanistan.

Question by THE OBSERVER correspondent: Do you (?contemplate) revolution within Islam?

Answer: I do not know what you mean. If a revolution aims at the creation of a society free of the exploitation of man by man, with a vision of shelter, food and clothes and the necessities of life, and if it respects the beliefs of the people and gives them the freedom of religion and freedom of [word indistinct], naturally the toiling people will accept and welcome it.

Question by THE OBSERVER correspondent: Don't you regard yourself as in a direct clash with the mosques?

Answer: Such an issue is never the case. Such a clash is absolutely nonexistent, and the reason is that we do not create any (?obstacles) in this area. Our people can freely go to the mosques; they have freedom to do so to an extent that they never had in the past. Their religious (?beliefs) are deeply respected.

Question by THE OBSERVER correspondent: You were in the United States for a long time, and you observed this major world capitalist society. What conclusions did you derive from that country which made you a socialist?

Answer: [Words indistinct] the United States is very advanced capitalist country which is the outcome of the capitalist evolution over centuries. Afghanistan (?will not be able) to reach that (?level) of evolution in one or two centuries. But class conflict [words indistinct] can be seen in the American society and there is no doubt about this. The United States is the most advanced capitalist society. But my stay in the United States is not the reason for my political beliefs. My beliefs and thoughts emanate from the reality of the ideology of the working class and my deep (?understanding) [words indistinct].

Question by THE OBSERVER correspondent: The Pakistan Government claims that [words indistinct] have taken refuge in Pakistani territory. Do you have plans for their return?

Answer: We don't just hope for their return; they are welcomed. This country is open to all of them. This is their own country and they could with the same [words indistinct] to Afghanistan. I do not agree with the claim that thousands of Afghan refugees have gone there. The majority of them are not refugees, but criminals, exploiters and oppressors [words indistinct] who used to live off our toiling people. They [words indistinct] and the revolution occured, our toiling people and the working class assumed power [words indistinct]. That is why those people who have gone (?astray) must not be [word indistinct] Their country is always open to them. [remainder indistinct]

BANGLADESH

INDIAN BORDER FIRE EXCHANGED AGAIN 17 NOV

BK180927 Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 18 Nov 79 BK

[Text] The Bangladesh Rifles [BR] and the Indian Border Security Force [BSF] fired shots at each other again in Muharichar area in Noakhali yesterday afternoon. BSS [Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha] quoting official sources says the Indian cultivators under the cover of Border Security Force again trespassed into the Bangladesh territory to harvest crop in the char area. Both BR and BSF fired two rounds of shots each. It says the Indian also trespassed into the Bangladesh territory on Friday [16 November] morning to harvest crops in the char resulting in the exchange of fire between the border forces of the two countries.

Bilateral Dicussions Continue

BK181712 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Nov 79 BK

[Text] The Bangladesh-India joint river commission continued its meeting in Dacca for the second day today. The delegations of the two countries are discussing the question of spurs constructed by India on the Muhari River with a view to arriving at an understanding. The leader of the Bangladesh delegation, the Deputy Prime Minister Mr Maudud Ahmed, and the Indian irrigation minister, Choudhry Bramh Prakash, also held talks exclusively on the border problems between the two countries.

At the end of 2 hours of talks, Mr Maudud Ahmed told newsmen that the talks and meetings are continuing. Both sides have shown, (?their eagerness for the solution) of the border problem.

The leader of the Indian delegation, who was also present, said we are still discussing.

INDIA

BANGLADESH CLOSES BORDER CHECKPOINT NEAR BELONIA

BK190317 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0140 GMT 19 Nov 79 BK

[Text] India and Bangladesh had their first round of ministerial level talks in Dacca yesterday to resolve the dispute arising out of harvesting the crops from the char land around the Tripura border off Belonia. The Indian delegation to the talks was headed by the union minister for agriculture and irrigation, Mr Brahm Prakash, while the Bangladesh side was led by the deputy prime minister, Mr Maudud Ahmed. Discussion on the border problems between the two countries is to be resumed this morning.

Meanwhile the Bangladesh authorities have closed the international route through the checkpost near Belonia town. Official sources in Agartala say that traffic between the two countries has been blocked.

Gunfire Exchanged 19 Nov

BK191024 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 19 Nov 79 BK

[Text] Bangladesh Rifles personnel suddenly fired five rounds from across the border at Belonia town in South Tripura district last night. Disclosing this, a BSF [Border Security Force] spokesman told AIR [All India Radio] correspondent this morning that the firing by Bangladesh Rifles was unproved. There was no casualty on the Indian side.

Again this morning, a few Bangladesh nationals tried to cross the border at Muhari char land for harvesting our crop; and BSF jawans [soldiers] challenged them and asked them to go away. When they did not heed the warning, BSF jawans were compelled to open two rounds of fire to scare them away, the spokesman added. Patrolling by the BSF jawans at the border continues.

SRI LANKA

INDONESIAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES 17 NOVEMBER FOR STATE VISIT

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[Text] President Suharto of Indonesia was accorded a warm welcome when he arrived this morning on a 2-day state visit to Sri Lanka. The special presidential Boeing touched down at the Katunayake International Airport shortly after 1000. The Sri Lanka envoy in Indonesia, Mr C.D.S.A. Dissanayaka, went on board the aircraft and received the distinguished visitors. At the foot of the gangway President Suharto was greeted by the president and Mrs Jayewardene. He was then introduced to the prime minister and Mrs Premadasa. Others present included the speaker; the minister-in-attendance, Mr Nissanka Wijeratne; the minister of public adminstration and home affairs; the minister of textile industries; parliamentarians; members of the diplomatic corps and members of the Indonesian community in Sri Lanka. Thirteen-year old (Luga Mendis) garlanded the Indonesian president and 10-year old (Navika Mendis) handed a bouquet to Madam Suharto. The Indonesian plane flew both the Sri Lanka and the Indonesian national flags. The airport ceremonies included a 21-gun salute and a guard of honor by the air force. The visiting president also signed the golden book for visiting state dignitaries. The two presidents left in the same vehicle later on a state drive to Colombo.

State Banquet Speeches

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[Text] President Jayewardene said yesterday that the government had given a new and special significance to Sri Lanka's relations with countries in South and Southeast Asia. This, he added, was a new departure signifying new dimension in the foreign relations of the country. The president was speaking at a banquet held in honor of the visiting president of Indonesia, Gen Suharto.

President Jayewardene expressed his firm belief that all the countries of Asia should be knit as closely as possible. He said that it was fitting that with Indonesia's record of struggle for independence, the Bandung conference should have been held in Indonesia in 1955. This was the conference which had come to live in history as the first Afro-Asian conference of newly liberated nations to safeguard the freedom they won and to support others who are struggling to free themselves from colonial chain. He stressed that the political leadership of Asia must now together find a solution to the problems of the continent. He added: Our people had waited too long for a life of peace, prosperity and happiness. He posed a question as to whether the time had not come to rekindle the spirit of the Colombo powers [as heard] and of Bandung which were forerunners to the present nonalined movement.

President Jayewardene said Sri Lanka would continue to work with Indonesia in the international forums to bring about a just and equitable international economic order.

President Suharto said that he was deeply moved by the brotherly and cordial atmosphere and the warm hospitality accorded to him and his party by the government and the people of Sri Lanka. He said the purpose of his visit mainly was to strengthen further the bonds of friendship between the two countries. He referred to the moral support given by the people of Sri Lanka during the struggle for independence in Indonesia.

Gen Suharto pointed out that history cannot separate the relations between Colombo in Sri Lanka and Bandung in Indonesia with the growth of the nonalined movement of today. Also the famous Colombo Plan, which is now almost 3 decades old, has greatly helped the progress of its members.

Sri Lanka with her Buddhist philosophy, President Suharto observed, was moving toward dharmista society, while Indonesia with her Pancasila philosophy was progressing toward a just and prosperous society.

These similar principles and objectives, the Indonesian president said, could certainly promote cooperation between the two countries in the face of difficult challenges. He also stressed that as developing countries they must continue to try to expand cooperation efforts in every possible area, particularly in the economic and social fields. Without economic and social developments, national independence will not lead to the people's well-being.

Gen Suharto also stressed the need to close their ranks in the attempt to create a stable world peace.

Suharto Departure

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[Excerpts] President Suharto of Indonesia left this morning from Katanayake after his 2-day state visit to Sri Lanka. President Suharto was accorded a guard of honor by the Sri Lanka Army. The special presidential Boeing aircraft left around 8 am [0200 GMT] with Indonesian President Suharto, Madame Suharto and party for Bangladesh on the third leg of their tour.